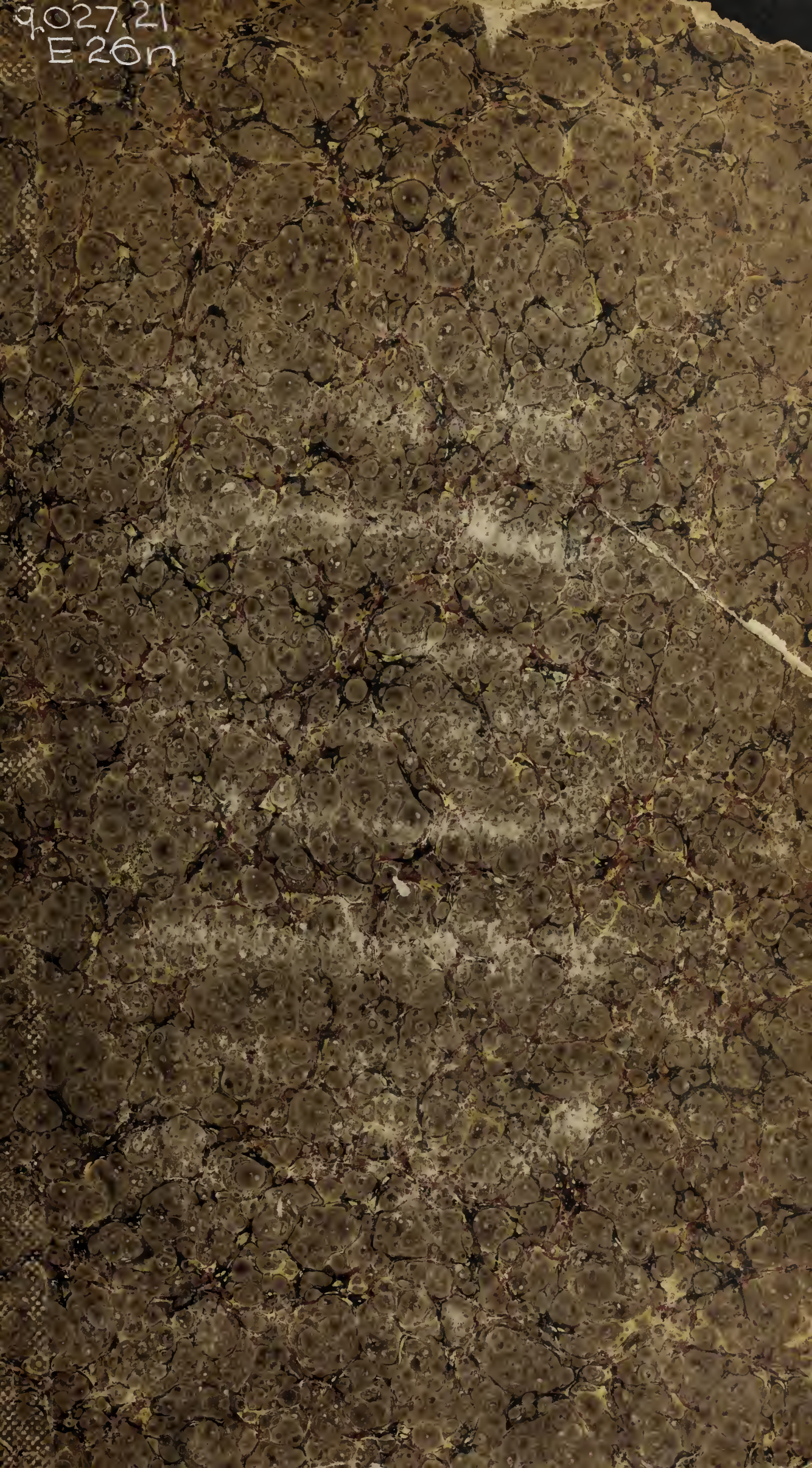


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NOTES  
ON  
THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.  
BY EDWARD EDWARDS.

[ 1856. ]



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PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
OF  
THE UNITED STATES.

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THE early history of Libraries in America derives a special interest for Englishmen from the fact that it is preëminently a record of reciprocal good offices, between some of the best men of both countries. There is not a Library in the United States, of the age of a century and upwards, which does not treasure on its roll of benefactors the name of many a liberal-minded Englishman, who saw that in lending what furtherance he could to the cause of learning in the rising community, he was at once discharging a plain duty, and sowing the seeds of an abundant harvest, of which his own posterity would surely reap a portion, though they might never behold the fields in which it was to grow.

Many have been the flippant and shallow sneers which, in more recent days, have been thrown by writers of a certain school—small, but noisy—at the Americans, for their alleged disregard of literature of the higher order, and especially for their want of those great collections of books, without which thorough scholarship and lofty literary enterprise are alike impossible.

Perhaps an unlucky remark which fell from a North American Reviewer, some years ago, may have been the germ of some of these depreciatory statements. For in these days of countless periodicals a casual and hasty paragraph will sometimes attain a singular vitality by mere dint of repetition. Literature will not be much promoted, observed this writer, by a "facility for accumulating quotations by means of huge libraries."\* Of course, a brother critic on this side of the water speedily improves the occasion, by assuring his readers that the "spirit of pride which leads us to contemn what we do not possess, has unhappily had its effect on the Americans, and induced them to undervalue the advantages of public libraries."† Other writers follow the lead, until we find the grave historian of Europe, Sir Archibald Alison, asserting not only that "literature meets with little encouragement in America," but that American historians will have to write the history of the present gener-

\* *North American Review*, No. 65.

† *Foreign Quarterly Review*, Vol. vii. p. 227.

Am. Lib. 57 Nov. 97 Goldschmidt 515m. ca 1894 d

ation from the archives of other lands, so "utterly regardless" are their countrymen of "historical records and monuments."

Most true it is that America can show no great encyclopædical collection like the Imperial Library at Paris, or the British Museum Library in London, or the Bodleian at Oxford. Such repositories as these are the slow growth of centuries. They need the combination of many favourable circumstances, and the laborious efforts of several successive generations of benefactors. The rude and arduous pioneer work which the American Colonists had to perform, might well have tasked their utmost energies, to the exclusion of all thought for the wants of their future historians and scholars, in the way of a great public provision of books. That Collegiate and other Educational Libraries, indeed, should be formed in the States may be regarded as but the natural sequence of that wise and far-sighted policy which led the Legislature of Massachusetts to enact (more than two hundred years ago) that "when any town shall increase to the number of one hundred families they shall, under penalty, . . . set up a grammar-school;"\*—thus initiating one of the best systems of school organization which the world has seen, and deciding on broad and enduring principles a question, which in the mother-country is to this day made the arena of petty sectarian conflicts. But it would be vain indeed to expect any elaborate collection of the muniments of history, and the rarities of literature, from men who not only had before them the conversion of a vast wilderness into a civilised and religious community, but of whom it might be said with literal truth, that "they who builded and they who bare burdens, . . . with one hand wrought at the work, and with the other hand held a weapon."

It will, however, become apparent in the course of our brief review of the rise and progress of Public Libraries in the United States, that even in times of savage warfare and intestine difficulty there have been Americans who were thoughtfully providing for the wants of the men of letters of a more quiet period to come; whilst, on the other hand, the Union, as a country, has long been distinguished for the wide diffusion of a popular taste for reading, and the large facilities presented for the gratification of that taste. The discrimination, too, which time was sure to bring with it, is visibly advancing. No circumstance in recent days has more noticeably affected the book-markets of Europe, than the rapid growth of the American demand for good, choice, and fine books. Always a nation of readers, they are becoming, not indeed a nation of critics, but—what is much better—of generous appreciators of the literature of all Europe, as well as of their own. Seventy years ago it was said of them: "It is scarce possible to conceive the number of readers with which every little town abounds. The common people are on a footing in point of literature with the middle ranks of Europe." But the same writer tells us, that "of expensive publications they have none. A single book of the value of £5 or £10 is nowhere to be found here." † Sixty-four years after these passages were penned, another writer, Mr. Henry Stevens, of Vermont—who has had

\* *Charters and general laws of the Colony and Province of Massachusetts Bay.* (Boston, 1814. 8vo.)

† *Bibliotheca Americana* (1789), Preface.



unusual opportunities of forming a correct judgment on such matters—tells us that “a few years ago the veriest trash was deemed good enough for exportation to Jonathan, who was then proverbially not over-particular either as to the edition or condition of his books, provided he had enough of them. Now, however, he buys . . . much more intelligently. . . . He is ready and anxious to secure for his library those literary gems which are so wont to delight the heart and empty the pockets of the bibliophile.”\* And, above all things, it might have been added, he is eager to collect, at any cost, every work that throws light on the early history of his own country, so utterly wide of the mark is Sir Archibald Alison’s unwise assertion, that Americans “are wholly regardless of historical records or monuments.”

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## CHAPTER I.

### OF COLLEGIATE LIBRARIES.

THE largest Library (or that which was largest † only a few months ago) is also their oldest. The Library of Harvard College, at Cambridge, Massachusetts, is almost contemporaneous with the College itself, which was founded by the Massachusetts Legislature, at the instance of the celebrated Governor Winthrop, in 1632, and endowed by John Harvard, with his library and half his estate, six years afterwards. To the small, but precious collection of Harvard, were successively added the valuable gifts of Sir Kenelm Digby, Sir John Maynard, Dr. Lightfoot, Dr. Gale, Richard Baxter, Bishop Berkeley, and other benefactors, of the mother country, as well as those of many native Americans. How many interesting associations must have been bound up with those early acquisitions, we may partly estimate from a passage in Baxter’s writings: “I purposed,” he says, “to have given almost all my library to Cambridge, in New England; but Mr. Thomas Knowles, who knew their library, told me that Sir Kenelm Digby had already given them the Fathers’, Councils, and Schoolmen, and that it was Histories and Commentators which they wanted. Whereupon I sent them some of my Commentators and some Histories, among which was Freherus, Reuherus, and Pistorius’s Collections . . . . Now, I must depend on the credit of my memory.” ‡ Reminiscences like this are all that now survive of this first “Harvard Library,” the whole of which, with the philosophical apparatus and much other property of the College, as well as the building which it occupied, was destroyed by fire in January, 1764.

The calamity, however, did but give a new impulse to liberal exertion both at home and in England. The Legislature immediately set apart £2000 for a

\* Stevens, *My English Library*, Preface.

† Taking into the account, that is, the subsidiary collections called “Society Libraries.”

‡ *True History of Councils*, as quoted in Orme’s *Life of Baxter*, vol. ii. p. 384.

new building. Almost another £1000 was raised by a public subscription in the State.\* Equal zeal was shown in the restoration of the Library, so far as that was possible. The General Assembly of New Hampshire gave books to the value of £300 sterling. The Societies for the Propagation of the Gospel gave an equal sum, to be expended in purchases. Amongst individual benefactors, Thomas Hollis stands preëminent. During the ten years which elapsed between the fire of 1764 and his death, he sent over no less than forty-three cases of books, selected with that keen relish for our best writers, and that acute perception of the pregnant qualities of books as the "fertilizers" of the soul, by which (as well as by some singular crotchets that did nobody much harm) he was so remarkably distinguished. At his death he bequeathed to the College a sum of money, from which there is still a fund of three thousand dollars, the interest whereof is expended in the purchase of books.†

Mr. Brand Hollis followed his uncle's example, both by the gift of books and by a legacy at his death. John Hancock gave £550 in money, and "a large collection of chosen authors." Thomas Palmer, of Boston, gave, in 1772, a set of the Works of Piranesi, and some other choice books; and, nearly fifty years afterwards, bequeathed a library of about 1200 volumes, valued at 2500 dollars. Samuel Shapleigh, who was Librarian at Harvard at the beginning of the present century, gave a piece of land to the Library, and made it his residuary legatee. The fund thence accruing is combined with that of Hollis, and their conjoint interest amounts to about £100 a-year.

In 1818, Israel Thorndike, of Boston, purchased, and presented to Harvard College the celebrated Library of Professor Ebeling, of Hamburgh, consisting chiefly of books relating to America, extending to 3200 volumes; and to which was appended a collection of no less than 10,000 maps and charts. Another remarkable collection of books relating to America was purchased of Mr. D. B. Warden, by Samuel Elliott, of Boston, and similarly presented in 1823. Many other donations of almost equal importance must be passed over without remark. But I cannot omit to record the gift, in 1846, of £100, for the purchase of books, by the late Right Hon. Thomas Grenville. It was one of the latest of a long series of beneficent acts that adorned a life unusually protracted, and the good deeds of which, as all students know, did not terminate with the life.

Twenty years ago, the growth of the Library had outstripped the capabilities of the building. But the munificent bequest of Christopher Gore enabled the Regents to lay, in 1837, the foundation of a new structure, which received the name of Gore Hall, and to which the books were removed in 1841. Mr. Gore

\* Jewett, *Notices of Public Libraries in the United States* (1851)—a "Smithsonian Report,"—p. 31.

† Nor is it undeserving of remark that many of his gifts are clothed in that rich and peculiar binding, with the well-known emblems, which still makes the collector's eyes to glisten, however small his general attachment to caps of liberty and "red republicanism." Many of the Hollis volumes at Harvard have MS. notes by the donor. In one of these he speaks of the pains he had taken to collect grammars and lexicons of the "Oriental root-languages," in the hope that he might thus help to form "a few prime scholars, honours to their country and lights to mankind."—See the note quoted by Mr. Jewett, in his *Notices of Public Libraries in the United States*, pp. 31, 32.

had been, in his life-time, a liberal benefactor to the Library, especially by the gift of valuable law-books; and the sum ultimately receiveable,—after the lapse of certain life-annuities,—from the bequest of his residuary estate, will fall little short of £20,000 sterling.\*

At the time of removal, the Library numbered about 38,000 volumes. In the following year, a sum exceeding £4000 sterling was subscribed by thirty-four gentlemen, of Boston, expressly for the purchase of books, and with a special view to the filling up of deficiencies in certain important departments of the sciences. About 12,000 volumes were purchased, from this source, between the years 1842 and 1850. During the same period about 4000 volumes and upwards of 16,000 pamphlets were presented by various donors. Since 1850 the Library has been dependent for its augmentation on the interest of the Hollis and Shapleigh Fund, and on casual donations.

The Harvard Library is at present divided into four departments: 1. The Public Library, which contains about 61,000 bound volumes, and upwards of 25,000 pamphlets. The MSS. are few and of little importance. 2. The Law Library, which includes the valuable collection of Mr. Justice Story, comprises upwards of 14,000 volumes, and of which the purchased portion, exclusive of many important donations, has cost upwards of £7000. "It includes," says the Catalogue of 1850, "all the American Reports; the Statutes of the United States, as well as of all the States individually; a regular series of all the English Reports, including the Year Books, and also the English Statutes, as well as the principal treatises on American and English law; besides a large collection of Scottish, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, and other foreign law, and a very ample collection of the best editions of the Roman or Civil Law, together with the works of the most celebrated commentators upon that law." The Catalogue of this excellent collection was prepared by Mr. Charles Sumner, the well-known and respected Senator of the United States. 3. The Theological Library, containing between 3000 and 4000 volumes. It consists chiefly of modern works, but also contains some of the Fathers of the Church in their original texts. And 4. The Medical Library, especially intended for the Medical Students attending the lectures in Boston, and containing about 1300 volumes.†

In addition to these main collections, the "Society Libraries," as they are termed, which at various times have been originated by the students themselves, contain about 12,000 volumes, making a series of collections which amount, in the aggregate, to upwards of 92,000 volumes.

All officers and students of the University; officers of the State Government, and members of the Legislature; clergymen of all denominations, living within ten miles of the Library; all donors to the value of £8, during their residence in Cambridge; and all persons temporarily residing in Cambridge for purposes of study, may borrow books without charge, under the conditions prescribed in the laws of the University. Ready admittance, with all requisite information and facilities for examining and consulting the books, are afforded to all visitors, and the library is extensively used.

\* Jewett, *Notices, &c., ubi supra.*

† Jewett, *ubi supra.*

[2.] Library of Yale College. The Library of Yale College may almost be said to have been founded *before* the Institution to which it belongs, since we read in its history, that in the year 1700, eleven of the principal ministers met at New Haven, and formed themselves into an association for the erection of a College in the Colony; and that, at their next meeting—the first after they were organized—each of them brought a number of books, and presenting them to the society, said, *I give these books for the founding of a College in this Colony.\**

To this College, as to Harvard, Bishop Berkeley was an early and eminent benefactor. In the dawn of his illustrious career he had said deliberately that he would prefer the headship of an American College—on a scale worthy of the work which he saw to be before it—to the primacy of England. Had he succeeded in imparting to the English government but a tenth part of his own sense of its duties, he would assuredly have lived and died in the position he longed for. As it was, he left America with a truer insight into its great futurity than seems to have been attained by any other man of that generation, and kept through life a most loving regard for its best interests. His donation to Yale was said to be “the finest collection that ever came together at one time into America:” and his name is followed in the donation book by the names of Newton, Halley, Woodward, Bentley, Steele, Burnet, Kennet, Calamy, Edwards, and Henry.

For nearly a century and a half, however, the growth of Yale Library was very slow. But in 1845 a fund was raised for large purchases in Europe, and, by the care and exertions of Professor Kingsley, such a selection of books was made as at once placed the library amongst the best—though not amongst the largest—collections in the Union. On the 1st of January, 1849, the number of volumes was 20,515, and it now exceeds 30,000, exclusive of pamphlets, and of the libraries of the Students’ Literary Societies, which number not less than 25,000 volumes. There is a permanent fund of £5400, yielding an annual income of £324 for purchases, and hence accrues a yearly addition of 900 or 1000 volumes.

Numerically, the College Library of Yale contains the smallest portion of its literary stores. The two “Society Libraries,” belonging to the students, comprise in the aggregate upwards of 25,000 volumes. Of these the “Linonian” is the oldest, having been founded in 1753. In 1800 it contained but 475 volumes; in 1822, 1187 volumes; in 1842, the number had increased to 8000. It has now nearly 14,000 volumes, and has a good catalogue. The library of the “Brothers in Unity” is of nearly similar date, and contains a nearly equal number of volumes. To this collection bibliographers and book lovers, both in Britain and in America, are indebted for the admirable “Index to Periodical Literature,” of Mr. William Frederic Poole. “While connected,” says the author in his preface, “with the library of the ‘Society of Brothers in Unity’ in Yale College, I attempted to . . . make the contents of Periodicals accessible to the students in the preparation of their written exercises, and the discussions of their literary societies.” This attempt ultimately resulted in the volume which is now an indispensable part of the bibliographical apparatus of

\* Jewett, *ut supra*, p. 70.

a library. Both these collections are of course Lending Libraries, and how extensively they are used will appear from the fact that the aggregate annual issue considerably exceeds the aggregate number of volumes which they contain. The Library of the American Oriental Society is deposited in the College Library building.

Next, in chronological order, of the Collegiate Libraries is [3.] Library that of Columbia College, in New York. It originated in the bequest (about 1757) by Mr. Joseph Murray, of his library, of Columbia College, with other property, amounting in the whole to £8000. Another collection of about 1500 volumes was bequeathed by Dr. Bristowe. Presents were also received from Lord Bute, and from the University of Oxford, so that the College possessed a considerable Library, when, in 1776, the authorities were directed to make ready "for the reception of troops." "The students were in consequence dispersed, the Library and apparatus were deposited in the City Hall, or elsewhere, and the College edifice was converted into a Military Hospital. Almost all the apparatus, and a large proportion of the books belonging to the College, were wholly lost to it in consequence of this removal; and of the books recovered, 600 or 700 were so only after about thirty years, when they were found, with as many belonging to the New York Society Library, and some belonging to Trinity Church, in a room in St. Paul's Chapel, where, it seems, no one but the sexton had been aware of their existence, and neither he nor anybody else could tell how they had arrived there." \*

In 1792, a grant in aid of the restoration of the Library was obtained from the Legislature. In 1813, the library of Professor Kemp, and in 1838, that of Professor Moore, were purchased. It now contains upwards of 14,000 volumes. It is chiefly frequented by the officers of the College, and by students of the three higher classes.

Brown University—first established at Warren, and thence [4.] Library removed to Providence—was incorporated in the year 1764. of Brown University. The first beginnings of the Library appear to date from 1768, when the Reverend Morgan Edwards, then in England, was authorized to make some small purchases. Eight years afterwards the College building was converted into a barrack and hospital; the students were dispersed, and the books removed; and it was not until after the conclusion of peace, in 1782, that the small library was restored and the College reorganized. Shortly afterwards a liberal subscription was raised for the purchase of books in England.

For many years the chief accessions were obtained by gift or by bequest. Of American donors, Mr. Nicholas Brown, of Providence, and the Rev. Isaac Backus, of Middleborough, were the chief. The former imported from England, expressly for the University, a valuable law library, and afterwards gave £100 to be expended in other purchases; the latter bequeathed a collection of books, the precise number of which is not recorded; but many of them were both valuable and rare. Amongst these is a copy of Roger Williams' famous treatise on "the bloody tenent," on the fly-leaf of which is written, in

\* Moore, *Historical Sketch of Columbia College*, p. 62, as quoted by Jewett, *Notices, &c.*, p. 94.

the author's hand, "*For his honored and beloved Mr. John Clarke, an eminent witness of Christ Jesus, ag'st ye bloodie doctrine of persecution,*" &c. Amongst the English donors the most noticeable appear to have been the Rev. William Richards (the historian of Lynn), and Granville Sharp.

Mr. Richards had long carried on a correspondence with American divines, and being a man of liberal principles, had made many inquiries as to the accessibility and unsectarian character of the College at Providence. It was stated to him that, "Although the Charter requires that the President shall for ever be a Baptist, it allows neither him, in his official character, nor any other officer of instruction, to inculcate any sectarian doctrine; it forbids all religious tests; and it requires that all denominations of Christians, behaving alike, shall be treated alike. This Charter is congenial with the whole of the civil government established here by the venerable Roger Williams, who allowed . . . no preëminence of one denomination over another, and none has ever been allowed unto this day." Gratified by this letter, Mr. Richards bequeathed to this College a collection of about thirteen hundred volumes of considerable value, and especially rich, it is stated, in the History and Antiquities of England and Wales. The name of Granville Sharp appears frequently in the list of donors from the year 1785 until the period of his death.

Hitherto the library had been very slenderly provided with the literature and the science of continental Europe. Between the years 1823 and 1845, however, many valuable presents of foreign books were acquired by the liberality of Mr. John Carter Brown, of the Rev. Thomas Carlile, and of the wife of President Wayland. At the sole cost of the first-named gentleman, and by the able instrumentality of Mr. Jewett, then Librarian of Brown University, upwards of 3000 volumes, well selected and well bound, were purchased in France, Germany, and Italy. Amongst them were entire collections of the standard writers of each of those countries; complete sets of the *Mémoires de l'Institut de France*, of the *Mémoires sur l'Histoire de France*, of the *Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung*, and the *Allgemeine Deutsche Bibliothek*; a long series of famous "Galleries," including those of the Vatican, the *Museo Borbonico*, the *Musée Royal*, and the *Musée Français*; the great French work on *Egypt*; Canina's masterly work on *Architecture*; with many others of great value.

Nothing in the history of this institution is more worthy of praise and imitation than is the generous rivalry which has made the good deed of one benefactor a spur to the good intent of another. No sooner had Mr. Carter Brown interposed so effectively on behalf of the Foreign section of the Library, than other friends clubbed together to improve its English department, at the cost of a thousand pounds. In the following year a similar effort on behalf of the Theological department was originated by the Rev. Samuel Osgood, and by this means a fine series of the Fathers of the Church, of the Councils, and of the best writers of the Reformation period were added to the Collection.

Besides these special efforts directed, and wisely directed, to certain particular classes of literature, a permanent fund of £5000 has been formed by subscription, the interest of which is annually expended in purchases; a new building has been erected with capacity to accommodate the growing library for a long time to come; and an excellent catalogue has been prepared

and printed. The number of volumes now exceeds 26,000, exclusively of about 7000 volumes which belong to two literary Societies formed by the students. The Library is extensively used, and is accessible for all literary and studious purposes under very liberal regulations.

Dartmouth College at Hanover (*New Hampshire*) was founded in 1769, and, by gradual accumulations, has become possessed of about 21,000 volumes, which belong, in nearly equal portions, to the Library of the College properly so called, to that of the Society of Students, designated the "Social Friends," and to that of another Society, called the "United Fraternity." [5.] Library of Dartmouth College.

The other principal College Libraries of the United States—founded subsequently to the commencement of the present century—I can but briefly enumerate. Taking the chief of them only (in chronological order), they are as follows:—

## OTHER UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES.

Date of Foundation.	Name of College or University.	City or Town where situated.	Name of State.	Aggregate number of vols. (including the Students' Libraries).
1800.	1. VERMONT UNIVERSITY.	Burlington.	<i>Vermont.</i>	13,600.
1802.	2. BOWDOIN COLLEGE.	Brunswick.	<i>Maine.</i>	26,600.
1802.	3. SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE.	Columbia.	<i>S. Carolina.</i>	21,400.
1808.	4. ANDOVER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.	Andover.	<i>Massachusetts.</i>	24,000.
1825.	5. VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY.	Charlottesville.	<i>Virginia.</i>	21,200.
1838.	6. UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.	New York.	<i>New York.</i>	about 18,000.

Of these Libraries, the collections at Burlington, Columbia, and Charlottesville, appear to be most noticeable for the care with which they have been selected. The first named is rich in the Greek and Roman classics, and in the literature of Spain and of Scandinavia: the greater portion of the fine library collected by the Hon. George P. Marsh, formerly Minister from the United States to Turkey, being here deposited. The Columbia Library was founded by an act of the Legislature, and receives an annual appropriation for books of £400. Professor Lieber has rendered great assistance in the selection of books, and the collection is said to be more valuable "than many of twice its size."\* That at Charlottesville was originally formed and arranged by President Jefferson; enlarged by a legacy of President Madison, and by another—comprising 3380 volumes—of Mr. Christian Bohn. It occupies a fine circular building, erected in 1825, expressly for the Library, at a cost of £14,000.

There are many other collegiate libraries, of which no notice can here be taken, the numerical contents of which, however, are enumerated in our "Statistical Table."

\* Jewett, *ut supra*, p. 155.

## CHAPTER II.

## OF PROPRIETARY AND SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARIES.

THE first establishment of proprietary libraries in the United States connects itself with the illustrious name of Franklin; and to narrate the rise in other words than his own would be impertinent. "At the time," he says, "when I established myself in Pennsylvania, there was not a good bookseller's shop in any of the Colonies to southward of Boston . . . . Those [1.] Library Company of Philadelphia. who loved reading were obliged to send for their books from England; the members of 'the Junto' [a sort of half convivial, half literary club, mainly of Franklin's foundation] had each a few. We had left the ale-house where we first met, and had hired a room to hold our club in. I proposed that we should all of us bring our books to that room, . . . . and for some time this contented us . . . . But soon [in 1731] I set on foot my first project of a public nature, that for a subscription library. I drew up the proposals . . . and, by the help of my friends in 'the Junto,' procured fifty subscribers of forty shillings each to begin with, and ten shillings a-year for fifty years, the term our company was to continue. We afterwards [in 1742] obtained a charter, the company being increased to one hundred. *This was the mother of all the North American Subscription Libraries* now so numerous. It is become a great thing itself, and continually goes on increasing." "These libraries," adds Franklin, "have improved the general conversation of the Americans, made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen in other countries, and perhaps have contributed, in some degree, to the stand so generally made throughout the Colonies in defence of their privileges."\*

It is worth while to remark that, when Franklin took this step, no town in England possessed a subscription library. Liverpool appears to have been amongst the earliest towns which took action in this direction, and there no such library was formed until 1756.† Bristol did not possess one until 1772.‡ Nor is it less to the honour of Franklin, and of Philadelphia, that one of the first regulations which was made for the management of the Library, directed that it should be *publicly and gratuitously accessible as a library of reference*. The instructions to the first Librarian, Louis Timothee, expressly empower him to permit "any civil gentleman to peruse the books of the library in the library-room." The first donor to the infant Library was Peter Collinson, "Mercer, in Gracious Street, London," and the second, William Rawle, of Philadelphia (who gave Spenser's works in six volumes). Franklin himself succeeded Timothee as Librarian for three months. In 1738, a piece of ground was granted to the society by John Penn; and, within little more than thirty years

\* *Autobiography* (Sparks' Edition), p. 97.

† Brooke, *Liverpool as it was . . . in the last century*, p. 89.

‡ Tovey, *The Bristol City Library*, p. 000.



of the establishment of the Library, it was stated in a report that "many other libraries, after our example and on our plan, have been erected in this and the neighbouring provinces, whereby useful knowledge has been more generally diffused *in these remote corners of the earth.*" \*

In August, 1774, an order was made that the Librarian should "furnish the gentlemen who are to meet in Congress, in this city, with such books as they may have occasion for during their sitting, taking a receipt for them. A similar privilege was afterwards accorded to the legislature of Pennsylvania. In 1777, the Library was, for a time, converted into a military hospital. During the nine months of the British occupation of Philadelphia, the Library sustained no injury, except (as during the whole period of the war) from the non-importation of books. The funds which had accumulated in the interval were expended, on the conclusion of peace, in a large accession of English and foreign literature. In instructing their agent as to the purchases they wished to make, the Committee write thus:—"We shall confide entirely in your judgment to procure us such books of modern publication as would be proper for a public library, and though we would wish to mix the utile with the dulce, we should not think it expedient to add to our present stock anything in the *novel way.*"

In 1789, a new building was erected for the reception of the books, and an inscription was placed on the corner-stone, which is worth quotation:—

Be it remembered  
in honour of the Philadelphia youth  
(then chiefly artificers),  
that in 1731, they cheerfully,  
(at the instance of Benjamin Franklin,  
one of their number),  
instituted the PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY,  
which, though small at first,  
is become highly valuable and extensively useful,  
and which the walls of this edifice  
are now destined to contain and preserve;  
the first stone of whose foundation  
was here placed the 31st Aug., 1789.

The collection founded by Franklin had scarcely been arranged in its new habitation when the addition to it of the library of James Logan (the friend of William Penn, and the first president of the Pennsylvania Council) made an enlargement of the building necessary. This "collection of rare and valuable books, principally in the learned languages, and in the existing languages of the continent of Europe, . . . which, having formed it at considerable expense, he was anxious should descend to posterity, . . . Mr. Logan had endowed and vested in Trustees, for the use of the public for ever."† The library thus bequeathed was enlarged by the brother and son of the founder. At the time of annexation it contained about 4000 volumes. Large additions have since been made by purchase (as well from the sale of the original building and site, as from the founder's endowment), and also by donation. In 1828, Mr.

\* *Address presented to John Penn, 1763, quoted by Jewett, ut supra, p. 116.*

† *Catalogue of the Loganian Library (Ibid. p. 121).*

William Mackenzie, an eminent collector, bequeathed "all his books printed before the beginning of the eighteenth century, and eight hundred volumes more to be chosen by the Trustees, from his French and Latin books of later date." This valuable bequest amounted to 1519 volumes "of great rarity and value," and 3566 volumes were subsequently purchased from the Executors. 500 selected volumes were also left by Mr. Mackenzie to the Philadelphia Library, and its Directors made a purchase of 1466 additional volumes.\* The present contents of the Loganian collection exceed 10,000 volumes, and they are thoroughly accessible to the public at large.

The progress of the Philadelphia Library during the present century has been still more considerable. By the bequest of a native of Ireland, Mr. Henry Cox, it received a large number of MSS. relating to Irish history, including, it is said, the *original* correspondence of James I. with the Privy Council of Ireland for upwards of twelve years, with other historical documents, the value of which remains unknown.† Shortly afterwards (in 1803) another British subject, the Rev. Samuel Preston, Rector of Chevening, in Kent, bequeathed his library of above two thousand five hundred volumes, many of them, it is stated, "very splendid works, selected with great taste and judgment." Mr. Preston, it appears, was an intimate friend of Benjamin West. In the following year John Bleakley, of Philadelphia, bequeathed a thousand pounds to the library, of which he had long been a director. At a subsequent period about 5000 volumes were purchased on very favourable terms of James Cox, an artist, since deceased. Amongst these were many valuable works on the fine arts, and many rarities. By these varied means, the Philadelphia Library, which, seventy years ago, contained but little more than 5000 volumes, has now grown to upwards of 50,000 volumes.

Much to the honour of the Association, "citizens and strangers are permitted to consult the books without charge."‡ The privilege of borrowing is of course restricted to shareholders and subscribers. "The number of persons who consult the library is," it is stated, "very considerable." §

Another Philadelphia Library—that of the AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY—is of considerable antiquity, and now contains upwards of 20,000 volumes. The Society itself dates from 1742, was also founded by Franklin, and is the oldest of its kind in the United States; but of the precise date when its collection of books was begun, there seems to be no record. The Society also possesses a considerable number of MSS., Maps, and Prints.

[3.] Redwood Library at Newport. The Redwood Library, at Newport, Rhode Island, appears to rank next to the Philadelphia Libraries in point of date, though there is great difference between it and them in point of extent. But this collection is intrinsically more valuable than might be inferred from

\* *Catalogue of Books belonging to the Library Company of Philadelphia* (1835), Preface, p. x. *seqq.*

† But for so many similar examples, the possession of State papers of a date comparatively recent by a private person would excite suspicion as to the manner of their obtainment. Can this Mr. Henry Cox have been a descendant of the Irish Historian, and Lord Chancellor, Sir Richard Cox?

‡ *Catalogue, &c., ut supra*, p. xi.

§ Jewett, *ut supra*, p. 122.

its smallness. Abraham Redwood, the founder, gave, in 1717, the sum of £500 for the purchase of standard books in London. A sum of £5000 was speedily subscribed by the citizens for the erection of a building to receive them (to which sum was ultimately added £1200 more), and a site was freely presented by Mr. Henry Collins.\* In its very infancy the Redwood Library had the distinction of attracting to Newport the Rev. Ezra Stiles, who for so many years elevated the town and Colony by his learning and his public spirit, and of whom Channing has said, that in his early years he regarded no human being with equal reverence.† Mr. Stiles was long Librarian, and was the means of adding to the collection many works of great value.

Here, as elsewhere, the Revolutionary war interrupted the peaceful pursuits of literature; but here, too, an enlightened public opinion saw in the transient evil the seeds of permanent good, and was patient. The Library suffered more from the perils of the time than some others; and when these were over its progress met with a check in the death of the founder. Of late years a revived interest has been evinced in its growth and usefulness, but it does not yet number 5000 volumes.

The Library of the NEW YORK SOCIETY dates from 1754, when (according to Smith's History of New York) "a set of gentlemen [4.] New York Society Library. undertook a subscription towards raising a public library, and in a few days collected near £600, which were laid out in purchasing 700 volumes of new well-chosen books." They subsequently obtained what remained of a "Public City Library," which had been established more than half a century before, but had fallen into a neglected and dilapidated condition. In 1772 the Society was incorporated.

During the occupation by the British troops, this Library seems to have suffered more injury than was sustained by similar institutions in most of the other occupied towns. John Pintard (of whom mention will be made hereafter, in connection with the "Historical Society of New York") affirmed, as an eye-witness, "that the British soldiers were in the habit of carrying away the books in their knapsacks, and bartering them for grog." In 1788, however, vigorous exertions appear to have been made for the recovery, augmentation, and improvement of the collection.

Originally located in the City Hall, this Library has had the singular fortune of occupying within sixty years three new buildings, each of them expressly erected for its reception. Its temporary abodes included, it has, within little more than that period of time, had *six* different habitations. The moving cause is not explicitly stated, but would seem to have been the rapid increase in the value of sites favourable to commerce. In 1795, when removed to its first new building, it contained about 5000 volumes. When transferred to its second, in 1840, it had grown to about 27,000 volumes. In the present year,

\* *Catalogue of the Redwood Library*, 1843, Preface. (Quoted by Jewett, pp. 48, 49.)

† *Christian Worship: a Discourse at Newport, R. I.*, 27 July, 1836 (*Works*, vol. ii. p. 207). In this discourse Dr. Channing speaks of the Redwood Library as "yonder beautiful edifice, now so frequented and so useful as a public library, but once so deserted that I spent day after day, and sometimes week after week, amidst its dusty volumes without interruption from a single visitor."—*Ibid.* p. 205.

in which has occurred its latest change of abode, it possesses somewhat more than 40,000 volumes. If we may judge from the spirited address which was delivered before the shareholders in February last, by its able Librarian, Mr. Mac Mullen, "on the past, the present, and the future of the New York Society Library," it is now on the threshold of a new and energetic career of usefulness.

Amongst the minor collections which, from time to time, have merged into that of the Society Library, two merit special mention. The one was the gift (indirectly) of an English clergyman; the other, that of the descendant and representative of John Winthrop, the founder of Connecticut.

In 1729, Dr. Millington, Rector of Newington, bequeathed his library to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, by whom it was presented to the Corporation of New York, "for the use of the clergy and gentlemen of New York, and the neighbouring provinces." The Winthrop Collection consists of 275 volumes, and was presented in 1812. Of its worth as an illustration of American history—apart from all other value—not a word need be said. A good catalogue of the entire Library was published in 1850.\*

[5.] Library of Charleston. Eight years after the foundation of the Redwood Library in Rhode Island, and almost contemporaneously with the establishment of the New York Society, a few young citizens of South Carolina formed themselves into a "Library Society" at Charleston. Backed by larger means they had, at the outbreak of the Revolutionary war, not only amassed upwards of 5000 volumes (rich in classical literature), but had gathered a fund of £20,000, with a view to the "establishment of an institution for education in connection with their library." In addition to its own collection, the Society had also inherited the valuable library of Mr. Mackenzie, bequeathed to it "for the use of a College when erected in this province." In the terrible fire, which, in January, 1778, destroyed nearly one-half of Charleston, the Society's Library almost totally perished. Only 185 volumes out of between five and six thousand were saved. Mackenzie's Library fared better, nearly two-thirds of the books being saved, but of these many belonged to broken sets.

It was not until 1792 that any effectual steps could be taken for the restoration of the Library. Then, however, they were taken with vigour. In 1811, 7000 volumes had been collected. The present number exceeds 21,000, nearly the whole of which have been purchased. The name which appears most frequently as a donor of books is that of an eminent French botanist. Many years ago, André Michaux, in the travels undertaken for the preparation of his noble work on the Forest Trees of North America, met with liberal hospitality in Carolina. "Scarcely a year," says the preface to the Catalogue of 1826, "for some time past, has elapsed without our receiving from him some volume or work as a testimonial of his remembrance."

[6.] Library of the Salem Athenæum. Salem, in Massachusetts, commenced what is now its "Athenæum Library," in 1760. The war checked the growth of the "Social Library," as it was then called, but laid the foundation

\* Mac Mullen, *Lecture, &c., ubi supra* (1856) *passim*; Smith, *History of New York*, [under the year 1754]; Jewett, *Notices, &c.*, pp. 86—88.

of another and a better one. The present collection has been formed by the union of the two.

Dr. Richard Kirwan, the well-known chemist and mineralogist, had sent part of his library across the Irish Channel in a vessel which became the prize of an American privateer. When brought into Beverley for sale, some eminent clergymen and men of science, of Massachusetts, combined for its purchase, and made it the ground-work of the "Philosophical Library" of Salem. The books of Kirwan became a seed-plot to the mind of Bowditch. The illustrious expounder and continuator of the *Mécanique Célesté*, half-a-century afterwards, bequeathed a thousand dollars to the Salem Athenæum, as a token of his remembrance of the benefit. In 1810, the two collections were conjoined, and the "Athenæum" received a charter of incorporation. It now contains about 12,700 volumes,—is rich in works of science, and in the Transactions of learned Societies,—and has a valuable series of pamphlets.

In 1765 a collection of books, on a similar plan to that of Salem, was commenced at Portland, and, like that, has now merged into the Library of the Portland "Athenæum." The number of volumes is about 8000.\* No other Library on the Proprietary or Subscription principle of much importance occurs during the remainder of the last century. Early in the present century that of the New York Historical Society was founded by John Pintard † (who is deservedly remembered in New York for many good deeds, and merits to be remembered by all lovers of books for his keen enjoyment of them up to the age of eighty-six. "Books," said he, "give me a downy pillow"). It now numbers nearly 18,000 volumes; is, of course, especially well-provided in American history, and continues to be a library for reference, not for lending.

The Library of the Boston "Athenæum" stands saliently out from amongst its competitors, alike for its extent, its liberality of access, its richness in departments not usually well-filled in American libraries, and for a precious remnant which it includes of the library of George Washington.

Founded in 1806, it has, within half-a-century, amassed more than 60,000 well-selected and well-arranged volumes, and these are lodged in a noble building which is already capable of accommodating half as many more. For books and building together, a sum of *fifty-four thousand pounds* sterling has been raised by subscription and donation (independently of the annual subscriptions for maintenance and ordinary expenses). This has been done quietly and without ostentation; and the greater part of the sum has been raised within the last ten or eleven years. Of such an indication of public spirit Boston may well be proud.

As may be expected under such circumstances, the bulk of this fine collection has accrued from systematic purchases. George Watson Brimmer gave, in 1838, a "magnificent series of books on the Fine Arts;" and, between the years 1823 and 1826, three several small and special Boston Collections—

\* *Annual Report of Portland Athenæum*, Oct., 1854, p. 5.

† *Semi-Centennial Celebration of the New York Historical Society* (1854), p. 48.

[7.] Library of the Portland Athenæum.

[8.] Library of the New York Historical Society.

[9.] Library of the Boston Athenæum.

theological, medical, and scientific—were wisely merged in the Athenæum ; but almost everything else has been bought.

This Library is rich in the Transactions of learned Societies. It has complete sets of those of the Royal Society, of the French Institute, and of the Academies of Berlin, Göttingen, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Turin, Lisbon, Madrid, and St. Petersburg, with many others of less note. In Natural History, also, it has many fine works.

When Bushrod Washington died, the library which he had inherited from his uncle, along with the Mount Vermont estate, was divided. Part was left, and still remains there. The other part fell to Colonel Washington, and came eventually into the market. The public papers were bought by Congress, but the books and pamphlets were declined. These were then purchased by Mr. Henry Stevens, and offered to the Boston Athenæum. With the public spirit which is characteristic of the place, a few Boston gentlemen, whose liberality was far from being exhausted by the many previous subscriptions above-mentioned, made the acquisition, and presented it to the Library. It consists of about 450 bound volumes, and of nearly 1000 pamphlets, as yet (or lately) unbound. About 350 contain his autograph, and some of them his notes. One of the books has his autograph in a school-boy hand, written about his ninth year. Several have the autographs of his father and mother. Several others are presentation copies from distinguished authors.

The regulations of the Boston Library, says Professor Jewett, "are framed with the design that it shall answer the highest purposes of a *public* library. Practically it is such, for each proprietor, besides the right for himself and his family to use the Library, may grant to two other persons constant access to it, free of all assessments ; and tickets for a month to any number of strangers. Any person indeed, strangers or residents, may be introduced for a special purpose by a note from a proprietor. Thus the by-laws open the doors of the institution to a large number of persons ; so that the proprietor who bestows on others the free use of all the rights he can impart, renders himself thereby a public benefactor. Nor is this all ; the principal civil authorities of Massachusetts, the clergy of Boston, and the resident graduates of several colleges, may have access, and may borrow books, on the same terms as proprietors.

It remains to give some brief description of the building which contains this excellent Library. Its style is Palladian, and its material freestone and brick. The façade is 100 feet in length and sixty in height. The principal floor comprises two reading-rooms, a committee-room, and a sculpture gallery. The floor above contains the library, which is arranged in a large room (109 feet by 40 feet), filled with bookcases to the height of 19 feet, and two smaller ones. The upper story comprises a series of rooms for pictures. The entire cost of the building has been about £27,000 sterling.\*

[10.] Library of the American Antiquarian Society. The Library of the AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY was founded at Worcester, Massachusetts, in October, 1812. It now contains nearly 21,000 volumes, and has been formed (as the Society's name denotes) for the special cultivation of Ame-

\* *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Jan., 1850 (article written by the late lamented Rev. B. B. Edwards), pp. 176, 177. Jewett, *Notices, ut supra*, pp. 19—23.

rican history. Its founder was Dr. Isaiah Thomas, the historian of printing, who gave as its ground-work his own collection of about 3000 bound volumes, a large number of pamphlets, and the best series of newspapers existing in America. This last-named collection begins with the first number of the first paper printed in the United States. By his instrumentality a precious remnant, perhaps the greater portion, of the oldest library which had been formed in Massachusetts—that of Increase and Cotton Mather—was presented by their descendant, Mrs. Hannah Mather Crocker. It amounted to 900 volumes, and included MS. papers, diaries, and correspondence of considerable value, as well those of the two John Cottons, as of the Mather family. Dr. William Bentley, of Salem, Mr. Thomas Wallcut of Boston, and Mr. Thomas L. Winthrop, its present President, have all been liberal donors to the Society's Collection.

The founder made the aggrandizement of this Library the main object of his latter years. Although he was sixty-three years old when it began its useful career, he was permitted to preside over it for nearly twenty years more, and marked every one of them by some valuable gift. At the time of his decease he had, on the whole, presented about 9000 volumes, and he left the Society a perpetual endowment towards the expenses of maintenance.

Amongst the Society's MSS., other than those already mentioned, there are many possessing considerable importance for the early history of New England. There is also a curious series of old prints, maps, and charts.

The AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES was originated at Philadelphia, in 1812, and incorporated in 1817. The Library is especially rich in works of Natural History. Of books relating to Ornithology—a most costly department—it was said, in 1850, to possess a complete series.\* It also possesses—what would not there be looked for—a curious collection of the revolutionary literature of France. This formed part of a liberal present of books from Mr. William Maclure, amounting in the whole to 5233 volumes. The Zoological collections of this Academy are the best in the United States, and the Ornithological section of them is one of the largest in the world. It was stated to contain, six years ago, about 25,000 specimens.†

[11.] Library of the American Academy of Natural Sciences.

Of all those Subscription Libraries which bear the name "Mercantile," that of New York is foremost, though not quite earliest in point of date. The first meeting for its establishment was held in November, 1820, about six months after the commencement of that at Boston. Both began on a very humble scale; but the former has grown until it possesses 48,000 volumes. The latter counted, in 1854, but 15,247 volumes.‡ Both, however, can look back on a long career of usefulness, and forward to one of indefinite progress.

[12.] Mercantile Library of Boston.

The name "Mercantile Library Association" scarcely describes the original scope of the Society of New York, or of the others, having a like designation. But it seems to become less inapplicable with every passing year, from the widening process which

[13.] Mercantile Library of New York.

\* Jewett, *Notices, &c.*, *ut supra*, p. 124.

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Thirty-Fourth Annual Report* (1854), p. 5.

time has brought to bear on the first plan. Originally, it was an association of merchants' clerks, to the exclusion as well of merchants as of all others. Within seven years the collection had grown sufficiently to need better accommodation than seemed attainable without the erection of a new building. In 1828, a meeting of prominent merchants was convened with a view to the provision of a suitable structure by a joint-stock. It was to be named "Clinton Hall," and the shareholders the "Clinton Hall Association." The members of the latter became, *ipso facto*, members of the library society.\* The building thus erected—at a cost of about £11,000—was opened in 1830. At that date the Library possessed but 6000 volumes. During the next thirty years 37,000 volumes were added, at a cost of £13,071 sterling (45,356 dollars), from which number must be deducted about 6000 volumes (of the more ephemeral sort) worn out during the same period. So that the increment, since 1820, would pretty accurately represent the actual contents of the Library in 1850, as respects mere numbers. During the same period 14,616 members were admitted.

In 1853 it was found to be desirable that a more capacious building should be procured. A joint-stock fund was again resorted to, with such success as led to the obtainment and thorough adaptation to its new purpose, of a very suitable building, at a cost, including furniture, of £49,200, nearly the whole of which has been defrayed. When the small remainder of debt shall have been paid off, the entire income of the "Clinton Hall Association" will be applied to the increase and improvement of the Library.

The total number of volumes in the Library on the 1st of May, 1856, was 46,383, of which 3588 had been added during the preceding sixteen months. Of these 3004 were purchased, and 584 presented. The sum expended in books and periodicals was about £900, and in binding about £300. Of the presented books, the greater part were public documents, including the "Annals of Congress."†

The Reading Rooms are amongst the finest in America, and are probably better supplied with periodicals in all departments of literature, both English and foreign, than any other. The New York Mercantile Association owes the perfection of this department, as it does the general efficiency of the institution, to the talents and energy of its Librarian, Mr. S. Hastings Grant.

The "Mercantile Library Association of Cincinnati" was formed in 1835, and incorporated in the following year. It now [14.] Mercantile Library of Cincinnati; and of [15.] St. Louis. (1856) contains 16,423 volumes, and its annual aggregate circulation is about 30,000 volumes.‡ That of St. Louis dates but from 1846.§ It now contains about 13,000 volumes,|| the money value of which, with the other property of the Association, is estimated at upwards of £9000. The annual circulation, during 1855, was 15,219 volumes.

\* *Thirty-fourth Annual Report* (1854), p. 5.

† *Annual Reports*, *passim*.

‡ *Twenty-first Annual Report* (1856), p. 6.

§ *Homes, Inaugural Address at the Opening of the Mercantile Library Hall of St. Louis* (1855), p. 26.

|| *Tenth Annual Report* (1856) p. 15.



## CHAPTER III.

## OF CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LIBRARIES.

THE first Library of Congress was founded in April, 1800. [1.] Congress  
 It was collected under the superintendence of Mr. Gallatin, Dr. Library.  
 Mitchell, of New York, and others. Though small, it was [1800.]  
 valuable, and is said to have been much resorted to in the early days of Wash-  
 ington City. On the 24th of August, 1814, it was totally destroyed by the  
 British Army.

The loss induced Mr. Jefferson to offer to Congress his well-selected library of 7000 volumes. It was purchased in 1815 (for £4600 sterling), and became the nucleus of the fine collection which, on the \_\_\_\_\_, was partially destroyed by fire. Both books and catalogue were arranged in subjects, according to Bacon's Classification of Human Knowledge, of which Mr. Jewett has said very appropriately: "It was not intended by its author as a bibliographical system. Nor has any improvement which it has received rendered it convenient or useful for that purpose. The system was introduced by Mr. Jefferson, and, unfortunately, has been continued here long after its abandonment in most other Libraries."\* At the time of this second calamity, the Library contained upwards of 50,000 volumes of printed books. The MSS. were but few. The then yearly appropriation for the purchase of miscellaneous books was £1000, and for that of law-books £200.

About 20,000 volumes were saved from the fire; including the greater portion of Jefferson's valuable collections on the History and Political Affairs of America, and nearly all the books of the law department. At the beginning of 1854, at least an equal number of volumes had been added to the salvage. With a liberality worthy of the occasion, Congress had appropriated to this purpose 85,000 dollars (£17,000). The purchases are controlled by a joint committee of the two Houses.

In the course of 1855, the number of volumes had grown to upwards of 60,000, including many extensive and costly sets, such as the Archæological and Scientific Works of Rosellini, Champollion, Humboldt, and Lord Kingsborough; complete sets, or sets as nearly complete as were procurable, of *The London Gazette* (for one hundred and ninety years); of the History, Debates, Journals, and Papers of the British Parliament (an entire series of which now considerably exceeds 3000 volumes); of *The Times*, and of *The Boston Centinel*; with many works on American History, both valuable and rare.

Of this most important Library, a thoroughly good catalogue might well be looked for. The *plan* of such a catalogue has been elaborately prepared by Professor Jewett, and has been published under the following title: "*Smithsonian Report, on the construction of Catalogues of Libraries, and their publication by means of separate stereotyped titles.* . . . . By Charles C. Jewett, Washington, 1853."

\* *Notices, &c.*, p. 139.

In the preparation of the Catalogue thus indicated, a considerable advance appears to have been made, although circumstances have recently occurred which have delayed its progress. That all difficulties may be completely overcome, and a problem be solved, the solution of which will ultimately improve the working of every great library in the world, must be hoped for ardently.

[2.] Other National Libraries at Washington. In addition to the Library of Congress, the capital of the Union possesses a "House of Representatives' Library," with about 35,000 volumes; a "Department of State Public Library," which comprised, in 1853, about 10,000 volumes; \* another collection—accruing from the legal exaction of copies of new books—which, in 1850, contained about the same number of volumes; † in addition to the special collections (Military, Technological, and Astronomical) of the War Office, the Patent Office, and the National Observatory. In 1854 these special libraries contained, in the aggregate, upwards of 15,000 volumes.

[3.] State Library of NEW HAMPSHIRE, at Concord. [1770.] The earliest State Library was that of New Hampshire, founded at Concord, about 1770. The best furnished is that of New York, which was not commenced until 1818, but is rapidly taking rank amongst the most important of American libraries. During the long interval which elapsed between the establishment of these two libraries, only two others of the same kind were formed—that of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, in 1816, and that of Ohio, at Columbus, in the following year. Now, such libraries are to be found in a majority of the States.

As the name implies, these libraries are maintained at the public charge, and primarily for the use of the respective legislatures and public functionaries; virtually they are accessible to all persons having any studious or serious purpose. The Library at Concord contains about 5500 volumes, of which about

[4.] Of PENNSYLVANIA, at Harrisburg. [1813.] two-thirds relate to legal and political subjects. That at Harrisburg contains upwards of 10,000 volumes, occupying two rooms in the State House. That at Columbus contains about 16,000

[5.] Of OHIO, at Columbus. [1817.] volumes, and is extensively used. About 3000 persons annually consult the Library, and about 1800 volumes are annually lent out. ‡ Part of the expenses of maintenance are defrayed by the profits which accrue from the sale of the State Reports and Documents. The Library occupies a room 118 feet by 22 feet, and is open for eleven hours daily (Sundays excepted) in summer, and for thirteen hours daily in winter. §

[6.] Of NEW YORK, at Albany. [1818.] The State of New York is unrivalled both for the liberality with which its Public Library has been supported from public funds, and for the care and energy with which it has carried out the system of domestic and international exchanges. It is a sufficient proof of the former assertion to state that there has been expended on its account (chiefly during the last 12 or 14 years) upwards of £20,000, in addition to the contributions of individuals, and of public institutions; whilst of the successful results, as respects New York, of the plan of library exchanges, the distinguished writer (Mr George Livermore, of Boston) of an article

\* Norton's *Literary Register* (1854), p. 103.

† Jewett's *Notices*, p. 140.

‡ Jewett, *ut supra*, p. 171.

entitled "Public Libraries," in the *North American Review* of July, 1850, has said: "No one can look over the printed list of donations to the New York State Library, procured through M. Vattemare's agency, without feeling that *that* State, at least, has good cause to speak well of his scheme, and its results;" although he adds, "but our conviction is strong that the system does not possess the elements of permanent or long-continued vitality."

In 1845 the Library contained but about 10,000 vols. It was then placed under the management of the Regents of the University of New York, as Trustees ex-officio. In 1850 the number of volumes had already grown to 23,274, of which 9870 related directly to legislation. Three years afterwards the number had increased to 34,279. It now exceeds 41,000, exclusive of MSS., of which mention will be made hereafter. Thus, under the vigorous management of the Trustees of the University, the Library has been quadrupled within about ten years. Nor is its merely numerical increase the chief thing that merits notice.

In 1849 a Select Committee of the New York Assembly reported on the results of the increased appropriation, and on the general progress of the Library. After various details the committee proceed thus: "An examination will convince all that it has become a worthy object of state pride. Already the law department is considered the most perfect of any similar collection in the States. It is believed, also, that nowhere can be found so many useful works on America and American affairs. The most unwearied pains have been taken; Europe and this country have been ransacked to procure everything valuable in this department. The value of these books cannot be estimated in money, for money could not replace many of them. There are also valuable scientific, statistical, documentary, and miscellaneous works, otherwise inaccessible to Americans generally.\*

What is termed the "Warden Collection," is especially rich in the materials of American history, and was acquired in 1845, at a cost of £800.†

Amongst the MSS. of the State Library are included an important series of Charters, Commissions, Letters Patent, and other similar documents of the highest interest for the American historian, from Charles the Second's grant to the Duke of York, of March, 1664, down to the period of independence. In 1853 the legislature authorized the purchase of the correspondence and other papers of George Clinton, first Governor of the State of New York. They have since been admirably arranged and indexed, and a portion of them, relating to the celebrated case of Major André, has been placed in frames under glass for more ready examination and secure preservation.‡

The Library is accessible for reading and consultation to every citizen. Members of the Legislature, only, are *of right* permitted to borrow books, and that only during the session of the Legislature. By a law of May, 1844, it is enacted that "the State Library" shall be kept open every day in the year, Sundays excepted, during such hours in each day as the Trustees may direct.

This period has been fixed at twelve hours daily. The illustrated works

\* Report printed in *Assembly Documents* of 1849, as quoted by Jewett, *Notices*, &c., p. 75.

† *Ibid.* p. 74; *Annual Report of Trustees*, 15th Jan., 1849, p. 6

‡ *Annual Report of the Trustees*, 22nd Jan., 1856, p. 8.

and prints are exhibited on two days in the week only, and then under judicious regulations.\* The extent to which the Library is used is, as might be expected, very considerable.

To the late Mr. O. Rich, formerly consul for the United States at Valencia, and afterwards of London; to Jonathan Goodhue, an eminent and most respected New York merchant; to M. Vattemare; and, above all others, to the lamented Theodrie Romeyn Beek, LL.D., so long Secretary to the Regents of the University, this Library is indebted for its rapid progress, its excellent selection and comprehensiveness, and its liberal accessibility.

- [7.] Of NEW JERSEY, at Trenton, [1824.] New Jersey possesses a State Library, organized in 1824, at Trenton, which, though still small, is in progress. That of Indiana was founded in 1825; is also, as yet, of inconsiderable extent, but it now increases at the rate of 250 volumes per annum on the average, and is widely accessible both as a consulting and a lending library. Massachusetts established its State Library, at Boston, by a law of March, 1826, which enacted that "all books and MSS. belonging to the Commonwealth, and now in any of the departments of the State House, shall be collected, deposited, and arranged . . . in the room . . . called the Land Office."
- [8.] Of INDIANA, at Indianapolis. [1825.]
- [9.] Of MASSACHUSETTS, at Boston. [1826.]

During the eleven years from 1838 to 1848 inclusive, the annual appropriation for the purchase of "such books, MSS., and charts, as tend to illustrate the resources and means of improvement of this Commonwealth, or of the United States," was about £80 a year, and the number of volumes added to the library during that period was 4680.

The collection includes many books of great value—such as Audubon's *American Birds*; Hamilton's *Collection of Antiquities*; Botta's *Monuments de Ninive*; the *Acta Historica Eeclesiastica nostri temporis*, printed at Weimar, between the years 1741 and 1774;—some of which are the results of the system of international exchange. But its greatest treasure is the series of Records of the General Court of Massachusetts, commencing in 1629, and extending to October, 1777. These Records contain the entire legislative history, and much of the religious history of Massachusetts, between these periods. No books in the Library, it is said, are consulted more frequently or with more interest.† It is fortunate, therefore, that the volumes thus extensively used are only authenticated transcripts, the originals of which are preserved in the Archives of the Secretary of State.

Of the remaining State Libraries our mention must be very brief. They are all in their infancy, but several of them evince such a sense of the public value of institutions of this kind, on the part both of the authorities and of the

- [10.] Of MARYLAND, at Annapolis. [1827.] Maryland established its State Library in 1827, which now contains about 15,000 volumes, and has an annual income of £100 for new purchases. Missouri had the misfortune to lose its library by fire in 1837, eight years after its foundation. Measures were taken
- [11.] Of MISSOURI, at Jef-

\* Rules and Regulations subjoined to the *Catalogue of the New York State Library* (1850), pp. 1055—1059.

† *Bibliotheca Sacra*, July, 1850, pp. 177, 178 [Article by the late B. B. Edwards].

for the formation of a new collection, which, in 1849, contained 4637 volumes,\* and now contains about 6000. The State Library of Virginia dates from 1828, and contains about 15,000 volumes. That of Kentucky was founded in 1834. It contained, in 1849, about 8000 volumes,† and now contains nearly 10,000. Maine began its State Library in 1836, and has now 15,500 volumes. Here also considerable advantages appear to have been derived from M. Vattemare's system of exchanges. As to the use of the Library, "probably 2500 persons," it is stated, consult it each year. The State Library of Connecticut is of still more recent formation. In an able report addressed by the State Librarian, Mr. Trumbull, to the General Assembly, in 1855, it is remarked: "As yet Connecticut has only the beginning of a library, . . . far from being adequate to supply necessary books of reference to the Legislators, Judges, State Officers, and others who have occasion to resort to it. Its increase has been necessarily very slow, having been mainly dependent on exchanges with other States, on the receipt of public documents and other works distributed by Congress, and (since 1849) on the operations of the system of international exchange, for which the State is largely indebted to the good offices and untiring exertions of M. Vattemare, now the accredited agent of the State for that end."‡ The Report proceeds to point out the various classes of books, the collection of which most merits the care of the Legislature, and is likely to open a new and prosperous era in the annals of the Library. Of other State Libraries recently commenced, an enumeration will be found in the appended "Statistical Table."

erson City.  
[1828.]

[12.] Of VIRGINIA, Richmond. [1828.]

[13.] Of KENTUCKY, Frankfort. [1834.]

[14.] Of MAINE, at Augusta. [1836.]

[15.] Of CONNECTICUT, at Hartford. [1850.]

## CHAPTER IV.

### OF TOWN LIBRARIES.

THOSE who have followed our historical summary thus far, will have, we think, no difficulty in assenting to the assertion which preceded it, that the provision of Libraries in the United States is—all things fairly taken into account—a very honourable one. But we now approach a quite new epoch in the history of American Libraries, which bids fair, if it but proceed as it has begun, to eclipse all preceding efforts in this direction. The libraries whose progress we have been reviewing, however well stored, generously supported, and liberally managed, are, in almost every instance, dependent for their maintenance on the fluctuating and insecure resource of voluntary contributions, and for their accessibility on the favour and goodwill of their Directors. The State Libraries are, indeed, an exception, but, from their very nature and object, the usefulness of these is limited, or almost limited, to lawyers and

\* Jewett, *Notices*, &c., p. 181.

† *Ibid.* 166.

‡ *Report*, &c., Hartford, 1855, p. 5.

public men. Up to the year 1848, no Town or City Library, strictly so called, existed within the breadth of the Union.

By "Town Library," we mean a library which is the property of the town itself, and enjoyable by all the townspeople. Such a library must be both freely and of right accessible, and securely permanent. It must unite direct responsibility of management with assured means of support. No such library existed in the United States until that of Boston was founded, in 1848. Nor did any such library exist in the United Kingdom until after the passing of the "Libraries Act," in 1850.

By chapter 52, of the Statutes of 1848, the Massachusetts Legislature enacted that the City of Boston might, from the city funds, establish a Public Library, and expend 5000 dollars (£1000) a year for its maintenance.\* In aid of the first expenses, £200 was given by Mr. Bigelow, and large contributions of books were made by Mr. Winthrop and Mr. Edward Everett.

The earlier steps in the realization of this project were slow but sure. They proved conclusively (were proof needed) that under judicious regulation the levying of rates for Public Libraries may become a spur, not a hindrance, to private munificence. The first money donation which followed that of the Mayor of Boston was one of ten thousand pounds (50,000 dollars) from Mr. Joshua Bates for the purchase of books.† This princely gift was invested, and it put the Library at once into possession of a permanent augmentation fund of £600 a year. Mr. Jonathan Phillips followed with another gift of £2000, to be similarly applied.

In an admirable Report, presented to the City Council, in July, 1852, the Trustees develop their views as to the plan of the new Library, and their desire to awaken "a general interest in it, as a City Institution, important to the whole people, as a part of their education, an element of their happiness and prosperity;" regarding that course as being "the surest way to make it at last a *great and rich library for men of science, statesmen, and scholars, as well as for the great body of the people*, many of whom are always successfully struggling up to honourable distinctions, and all of whom should be encouraged to do it."‡

It was not until the 20th of March, 1854, that the Boston City Library was opened to readers, nor until the 2nd of the following May that it was opened to borrowers. It began with about twelve thousand volumes, and, before the close of the year, this number was increased to 16,553, of which 6360 had been presented, and the remainder purchased. The aggregate issues during the first six months amounted to about 40,000 volumes. The Committee thus close their first Report on the actual working of the Library: "The benefits that must follow from such an institution, fitted, as the Public Library is, to continue by home-reading, and self-culture, the education begun by our excellent system of Free Schools, your Committee will not pretend to estimate. Indeed, if this Library should be liberally fostered and administered by the persons to whom its support and care are intrusted, all its benefits to

\* Jewett, *Notices, &c.*, p. 48.

† *Boston City Documents*, No. 73 [Nov. 1853], p. 4.

‡ *City Documents* of 1852, No. 37, p. 20.

the intellectual, moral, and religious training of our community, and especially of our children, can neither be measured nor foreseen.”\*

The Legislature of Massachusetts took a further step in advance on the subject in 1851, by passing “an Act to authorize cities and towns to establish and maintain Public Libraries.” American legislation differs from British so widely in the particulars of prolixity and verbosity, that the entire Act may be cited and read with little expenditure of type, or of time.

1. “Any City or Town of this Commonwealth is hereby authorized to establish and maintain a Public Library within the same, with or without Branches, for the use of the inhabitants thereof, and to provide suitable rooms therefor, under such regulations for the government of said Library as may from time to time be prescribed by the City Council of such city, or the inhabitants of such town ;

2. “Any City or Town may appropriate for the foundation and commencement of such Library, as aforesaid, a sum not exceeding one dollar for each of its ratable polls, in the year next preceding that in which such appropriation shall be made ; and may also appropriate annually, for the maintenance and increase of such Library, a sum not exceeding twenty-five cents for each of its ratable polls in the year next preceding that in which such appropriation shall be made ;

3. “Any Town or City may receive in its corporate capacity, and hold and manage any devise, bequest, or donation, for the establishment, increase, or maintenance of a Public Library within the same.”

The first town to take action under this Statute was New Bedford, by whose Council a Free Library was established, in August, 1852. The proprietors of a Subscription, or “Social Library,” transferred their collection to the new foundation, [2.] Free Public Library of the City of New Bedford.

which was opened for public use on the 3rd of March, 1853, with about 6000 volumes.† This number has been, within about three years, increased to 9000 ; and in their fourth Report the Trustees are enabled to affirm that “it is undoubtedly true that no act of the municipal authorities of New Bedford has reached with its recreative and improving operation so large a part of our population, and probably none has ever met so universally and deeply the approbation of the people . . . A Free Public Library is the crowning glory of the system of public education, which has been from our earliest history the pride of Massachusetts.” ‡

In a Report of the preceding year there is a passage bearing on a point which is always interesting in connection with the present subject—that of the selection of the books: “While care has been taken,” say the Trustees, “that no publication injurious to the public morals should find a place upon our shelves, we have endeavoured to divest ourselves, in our efforts to place before our fellow-citizens the means of a more extensive and genial culture, of all narrow and sectarian partialities. In this respect we are gratified to be able to state that no difference of opinion has for a single moment interrupted the harmony and unanimity of our proceedings.” §

\* *City Documents*, 1854, No. 74, p. 15. † *First Annual Report*, [1853], p. 4.

‡ *City Documents* of New Bedford [1856], No. 6, p. 4.

§ *Documents* of 1855, pp. 80, 81.

[3.] Astor Free Library of the City of New York. Whilst the "Old Bay State" was beginning to form Town Libraries, by wise and foreseeing legislation, aided by the munificence of merchants who may, without any flattery, be said to be "as princes in the earth;" that munificence unaided was providing, in the chief city of the "Empire State," a library on the largest scale and of the widest accessibility.

John Jacob Astor, a native of the little village of Waldorf, near Heidelberg, was brought to London whilst yet a mere youth. By dint of great industry and frugality, he found himself, at the close of the American war, in possession of a small sum which he invested in merchandise suited to the New York market. On his voyage thither he formed an acquaintance with a furrier—a countryman of his own—and, by his advice, invested the proceeds of his venture in the fur trade. "He began his career," says his friend and biographer, "of course, on the narrowest scale, but he brought to the task a persevering industry, rigid economy, and strict integrity. To these were added an aspiring spirit that always looked upward; a genius bold, fertile, and expansive; a sagacity quick to grasp, and convert every circumstance to its advantage, and a singular and never wavering confidence of signal success."\* With the good fortune that so often attends sagacious activity, Mr. Astor again found himself in London at a critical occasion;—at the period, namely, when a treaty was concluded which, for the first time, opened a direct commercial intercourse between Canada and the United States. He entered immediately into a contract with the North-West Company for furs. In the course of thirteen or fourteen years he had amassed means enough to launch the gigantic commercial enterprise known as the "American Fur Company" (afterwards the "South-West Company"), with a capital of one million of dollars, wholly furnished by himself. With that famous episode in the history of this enterprise, the splendid though unsuccessful attempt to establish an American colony beyond the Rocky Mountains, Mr. Washington Irving has made all the world familiar.

To have failed in a great project, which undoubtedly aimed as much at public as at private advantage, and to know that such failure resulted mainly from the supineness of the people and of the government in the furtherance of their own interests, would, perhaps, have deterred most men from busying themselves much about the public thereafter. With Mr. Astor, however, it was otherwise. Whether or not the precise channel which his munificence has chosen was the result of any reflections upon the share that popular ignorance may have had in the ill fortune of the greatest enterprise of his life, is but matter of conjecture. Be that as it may, his foundation at New York is the noblest contribution towards the dispelling of popular ignorance, and the facilitating of mental culture, which any American citizen has yet left behind him.

In a codicil, dated 22nd August, 1839, to his last will, Mr. Astor says: "Desiring to render a public benefit to the City of New York, and to contribute to the advancement of human knowledge and the general good of society, I do, by this codicil, appropriate four hundred thousand dollars (£80,000 sterling) out of my residuary estate to the establishment of a Public

\* Washington Irving, *Astoria*, p. 11 [Edition of 1851].



Library in the City of New York . . . . . to the intent that the said amount be . . disposed of, as follows, namely:—

1. 'In the erecting of a suitable building for a Public Library;
2. 'In furnishing and in supplying the same from time to time with books, maps, charts, . . . . . furniture, and other things appertaining to a Library for general use, upon the most ample scale and liberal character;
3. 'In maintaining and upholding the building, and other property, and in defraying the necessary expenses of . . . the accommodation of persons consulting the Library.'

"The said Library is to be accessible at all reasonable times and hours, for general use, free of expence, to persons resorting thereto. . . . . I further direct that a sum, not exceeding 75,000 dollars (£15,000), may be expended in the erection of a building for the Library; 120,000 dollars (£24,000) may be expended in the purchase of books, . . . and the residue shall be invested as a fund for the maintaining and gradually increasing of the Library." Mr. Astor proceeded to name the first Trustees (Washington Irving, W. B. Astor, Daniel Lord, James G. King, Joseph G. Cogswell, Fitz-Green Halleek, Henry Breevort, Samuel B. Ruggles, Samuel Ward, and Charles Astor Bristed), in addition to the Chancellor of the State of New York, and the Mayor of the City, for the time being, who are always to be Trustees, ex-officio. The Trustees were incorporated by an Act of the Legislature of the 18th Jan., 1849, and it was enacted that all the property of the Corporation, real and personal, "shall be exempt from taxation in the same manner as that of the other incorporated Public Libraries of this State," and that "the said Trustees shall, in the month of January of every year, make a Report to the Legislatnre for the year . . . preceeding, of the condition of the said Library, of the funds, and other property of the Corporation, and of its receipts and expenditures during each year." \*

Mr. W. B. Astor, the son of the founder, shortly afterwards presented to the Library the sum of 12,500 dollars (£2500 sterling †), for the special purpose of forming a complete technological department, by the purchase of books on every branch of practical industry and the mechanic arts. In 1849, Mr. Joseph G. Cogswell was chosen Superintendent, or Principal Librarian. In March, 1850, the corner-stone of the new building was laid, and in the summer of 1853 the building was completed. Its architect was Mr. Alexander Sæltzer, a pupil of Schiukel, and its style may be termed Florentine. The entire structure is fire-proof. The dimensions of the principal Library Hall are one hundred feet by sixty, and this room alone is capable of containing 100,000 volumes. The reading rooms are stated to be capable of accommodating 500 persons. The structure was completed for the £15,000 specified by the founder, and the cost of the fittings, about £3500 more, was defrayed by surplus interest which had accrued whilst the building was in progress. On the 1st February, 1854, it was opened for public use, with about 80,000 volumes of books.

In the selection of books, the aim has obviously been to give no preference to special classes of literature, but to collect a library which should be at once

\* Jewett, *Notices*, &c., pp. 88—91.

† *Annual Report of the Trustees of the Astor Library*, 1854, p. 11.

select and encyclopedical. And, undoubtedly, with the resources and the prospects of the Astor Library, this was the right course. In "Theology," its books at the opening amounted to 3752 volumes, including the best editions of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures; numerous versions of them in the principal languages of Europe and the East; most of the Benedictine Editions of the Fathers; the great collections of Councils, and the best English Divines, both early and recent. In "Jurisprudence" it numbered 3107 volumes, and is especially rich in the modern law of Continental Europe, and in British law. The American law department was, for the most part, reserved for future opportunities. In moral and mental "Philosophy," the number of volumes was 1500. In the "Mathematical Sciences," about 5000, including the collections of Halley and Legere. The astronomical section is especially rich. Of works of "Natural History" there were 4249, including the splendid and costly works of Martins, Wallich, Audubon, Gould, Sibthorp, Lambert, and Chenu. In "Chemistry, Physics generally, and the Useful Arts," upwards of 5000 volumes, in addition to 2000 volumes of the Transactions of Scientific Societies; and in "Fine Arts" 2500 volumes; on the first fifty of which, say the committee, 2975 dollars (£595 sterling) were expended. In the "Medical Sciences" the number of volumes was 1751.

The Historical Department contained, at the opening of the Library, 20,350 volumes, of which 3407 were on the History of America. This part of the collection includes most of the early Spanish writers, early Voyages in all languages, and a long series of histories of the War of Independence, and of works relating thereto. In the class "Politics," the principal contents of the Library, at the same period, consisted of Journals, Debates, and Reports of the British Parliament, and of other European legislatures, and amounted to 2880 volumes.

In the class "Literature," the section of Linguistics seems to be best provided. It contained at the opening 2100 volumes, including the best works on Ægyptology (to use the fashionable phrase) and on the Oriental languages, —some of them of great value and rarity. In the whole it has Grammars and Dictionaries of 104 different languages. In the Literature of Greece and Rome, the Library counted 3100 volumes,—the *apparatus criticus* included. In that of Italy, 1761, and in that of France, 3101 volumes. Of Spanish and Portuguese literature there were 673; of Dutch, 156; of German, about 1400; and of Scandinavian, 809 volumes. In the Hungarian and Slavonic languages collectively, the number of volumes was but forty-one. In English literature there were 3400 volumes; 300 of which were exclusively Shakespearian. It need scarcely be added that this enumeration of *languages* has relation to the class "Literature" only. Of Polygraphic and Miscellaneous works the number of volumes was nearly 5000.

If, then, we group these several statements into a simpler and more comprehensive classification, the broad result may be stated thus:—

	Volumes.
1. Theology . . . . .	3,752
2. Philosophy . . . . .	1,500
3. History . . . . .	20,350
4. Politics and Law . . . . .	5,987
5. Sciences and Arts . . . . .	20,500
6. Literature and Polygraphy . . . . .	26,141
Total . . . . .	<u>78,230</u>

For the systematic comprehensiveness and the judicious selection which alike characterize this fine Library, New York is eminently indebted to Mr. Cogswell, who made two several journeys to Europe in search of books, visiting every European book-mart of much importance, and who himself inaugurated the Library, in the best possible manner, by presenting to it a series of books, in every section of Bibliography, amounting to nearly 5000 volumes.

Very wisely, the Trustees have determined that the Astor Library shall be a Library for consultation, not for borrowing, although it is by no means certain that "a free library of circulation is a practical impossibility in a city as populous as New York," as Mr. Cogswell seems to think.\* Nor is it practicable—ponder it as we may—to perceive *why* a mere conjecture, expressed thus—"One hundred volumes a day is a *low average* of the daily use," is "a statement with respect to the extent of the use of the library, as exact as the nature of the case will admit;" or *why* "it would not be easy to say which department is most consulted," since both difficulties would be instantly removed by the simple expedient of registering the issues, as has long been done in libraries where the issue of *five* or *six* hundred volumes a-day is not a "low average," but an ascertained fact. These, however, are little blemishes in what is otherwise a most interesting Report of the first year's working of the Library, and are sure to disappear from future Reports.

Especially interesting is the statement, that "Very few have come to the Library without some manifestly distinct aim. . . . It is shown by experience that the collection is *not* too learned for the wants of the public. . . . In the linguistic department it possesses Dictionaries and Grammars, and other means of instruction, in more than a hundred languages and dialects, four-fifths of which have been called for during the first year of its operation. Our mathematical, mechanical, and engineering departments are used by great numbers; . . . students at a distance have found it a sufficient object to induce them to spend several weeks in New York, to have the use of them. The same remark applies to Natural History. . . . The books have been carefully used, and the rules of quiet and order invariably observed."

It remains to be added, that the present yearly income is £2483, and the ordinary expenses of maintenance £1142, which leaves £1341 a-year available for the purchase and binding of books.

\* *Annual Report on the Astor Library (1854).*

## CHAPTER V.

## OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

THE Smithsonian Institution was founded by an Act of the Congress of the United States of America, on the 10th August, 1846, in pursuance of the bequest by James Smithson, of all his property to the United States, in order to the establishment of an institution "at Washington, under the name of the 'Smithsonian Institution' . . . for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

James Lewis Macie (afterwards called Smithson) appears to have been a natural son of Sir Hugh Smithson, Bart., who was created Duke of Northumberland, in 1766 (and shortly afterwards "Vice-Admiral of all America"), after his marriage with the heiress of the Percies. Mrs. Elizabeth Macie, his mother, is said to have been of the Wiltshire family of Hungerford. Little is known of his life, save that he was educated at Oxford, that he cultivated a knowledge of chemistry, was well acquainted with Cavendish, and contributed to the *Philosophical Transactions* several analytical papers on chemical subjects; that he was proud of his descent, yet keenly sensitive on the score of the "bar sinister" in his escutcheon; ambitious of leaving a name that, to use his own words, "would live in the memory of men when the titles of the Northumberlands and the Percies are extinct or forgotten," yet willing to make his purpose wholly contingent on the birth of no child or children to a nephew who survived him; that he passed most of his life on the Continent, and died at Genoa in 1829, unmarried, leaving a fortune of about £120,000 sterling.

Mr. Smithson is said to have been a man of reserved manners and sensitive feelings; but an anecdote (almost the only one which has survived of him) shows that he must have possessed considerable coolness and strength of nerve. "Happening to observe a tear gliding down a lady's cheek, . . . he submitted it to reagents, and detected what was then called microcosmic salt, with muriate of soda, and, I think" (Mr. Davies Gilbert, President of the Royal Society, is the narrator), "three or four more saline substances held in solution."

The will of the founder of the Smithsonian Institution, bears date 23rd Oct., 1826. In it he describes himself as "James Smithson, son of Hugh, first Duke of Northumberland, and Elizabeth, heiress of the Hungerfords, of Audley, and niece of Charles the Proud, Duke of Somerset." After bequeathing an annuity to a former servant, he leaves the whole of the income arising from all his property, of what nature soever, "to Henry James Hungerford, my nephew, heretofore called Henry James Dickinson, son of my late brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Louis Dickinson," for his life, and then directs that "should the said Henry James Hungerford have a child or children, legitimate or illegitimate," such child or children should inherit the whole of his property of every kind absolutely and for ever. Failing such issue (as proved to be the case), he bequeathed the whole—subject to the annuity already mentioned—

“to the United States of America,” in the few words cited above, and without further detail of his intentions.

The Act of Congress, which organized the Institution, created a Board of Regents, directed the construction of a suitable building, empowered the Regents to appoint officers, which “said officers shall be removable by the Board of Regents, whenever in their judgment the interests of the Institution require any of the said officers to be changed;” and enacted that “the said Regents shall make, from the interest of said fund, an appropriation, *not exceeding an average of 25,000 dollars annually, for the gradual formation of a Library composed of valuable works pertaining to all departments of human knowledge.*” Of all remaining monies, “not herein appropriated, or not required for the purposes herein provided,”\* the Regents are directed to make such disposal as they may deem best suited for the promotion of the testator’s purpose; and by the 10th section it is enacted that one copy of all books, maps, and prints, for which copyright shall be secured, shall be delivered to the Librarian of the Smithsonian Institution, and one other copy to the Librarian of the Congress Library, for the use of such Libraries respectively.†

Congress Appropriation for the Smithsonian Library.

The amount received by Mr. Rush on behalf of the United States was £103,013 sterling. “He brought it over in sovereigns—deposited it in the Mint of the United States, where it was re-coined into American eagles,—thus becoming a part of the currency of the country. This money was afterwards (and unwisely) lent to some of the new States, and a portion of it was lost; but it did not belong to the United States—it was the property of the Smithsonian Institution—and the government was bound in honour to restore it. Congress has acknowledged this by declaring that the money is still in the Treasury of the Union, bearing interest at the rate of six per cent., and annually producing a revenue of about 30,000 dollars (£6000 sterling).” ‡

The plan which was adopted for carrying out the founder’s object, proposed,

1. To stimulate men of talent to make original researches, by offering suitable rewards for memoirs containing new truths;
2. To appropriate annually a portion of the income for particular researches;
3. To publish a series of periodical reports on the progress of the different branches of knowledge;
4. To publish occasionally separate treatises on subjects of general interest;

“The Act of Congress,” continues the *Programme of Organization*, “establishing the Institution contemplated the formation of a Library and Museum; and the Board of Regents, including these objects in the plan, . . . resolved to divide the income into equal parts. One part to be appropriated to . . . publications and researches; the other . . . to the formation of a library and a collection of objects of nature and of art. These two plans are not incompatible with each other.”

\* Copy of the Will, Act, &c., in Appendix to *Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Regents, &c.* (1854), pp. 107—123.

† Ibid. (*Programme of Organization*), pp. 128—133.

‡ Henry (Extract from an Address), p. 121.

On this double basis the expenditure of the Smithsonian bequest was for a short time regulated, being modified, however, by the necessity of providing, first of all, an adequate building for the transaction of business and preservation of the Collections. To this last-named purpose—the erection of a building—no part of the capital fund was appropriated. Interest had accrued to no less an amount than £48,400 sterling. This sum was devoted to the structure; but the trustees determined to keep it invested until a further sum of £30,000 had accrued, in the expectation that the two sums would both cover the entire expenditure on this head, and leave a sufficient balance to be invested as a permanent “fabric-fund” to keep the building in repair. The main structure was completed in 1855, and its total cost was £59,882 (299,414 dollars). The aggregate amount of accumulated interest up to the same date, was about £87,000. So that, in the words of the *Ninth Annual Report*, “the fund originally bequeathed by Smithson remains undiminished in the Treasury of the United States, and there is now on hand nearly 140,000 dollars (£28,000) to be added to the principal.”

At the very outset of the Institution two widely different views as to the relative importance of the several spheres of action, specified in the Act of Congress, and in the *Programme of Organization*, obtained, as well within the Board of Regents as without it. The one party regarded the formation and efficient maintenance of a great Library, with its subsidiary collections, as beyond all question the most valuable result which the Smithson bequest could yield. Their opponents esteemed the institution and encouragement of scientific researches, on the one hand, and, on the other, the widest possible dissemination of the fruits of such researches, by means of the press, to be far more valuable than any conceivable gathering of books, or of the other appliances of learning. The former alleged that to amass a splendid Library was at once to lay a broad foundation both for the increase and the diffusion of human knowledge, and to secure a tangible and enduring return, visible to all eyes, for the money expended. The latter relied on the vagueness and universality of the testator's few words of direction—“the increase and diffusion of knowledge AMONG MEN,”—as, of themselves, constituting a clear proof that no plan of expenditure, the fruits of which were wholly or chiefly local, could honestly carry out his purpose.

There is so much of undeniable truth in each of these statements, taken singly, and each of them is so far from embodying the whole truth of the question in hand, that a fair distribution of the funds between the two great objects of (1) gathering the tools of knowledge, and (2) of teaching men how rightly to use them, may well appear to be rather the wise solution of a difficult problem than a mere compromise between conflicting opinions. And with a little more of patience and mutual forbearance on the part of those who had to work out the plan, it would, we think, have been found practicable enough. An income of £6000 or £7000 a-year would not, indeed, have always sufficed to carry on simultaneously the formation of a great Library, and the production and diffusion of a series of scientific investigations of a high order. But it required no memory of uncommon retentiveness to call to mind the names of Brown and Peabody, of Bates and Astor; and no logical faculty, unusually acute, to make the right deduction from the reminiscence. A systematic

well-chosen, and preëminently *scientific* library at Washington would have been, at every step of its progress, increasingly useful even in the direct furtherance of the "active operations" of the Smithsonian Institution. No such library ever was, or ever will be, formed by a mere system of "exchanges," although such a system is an admirable aid and auxiliary. Honest and persevering effort for the obtainment of such a library, if made side by side with an energetic furtherance of the scheme of publication, would have gathered support from *all* quarters; whilst a contrary course has divided the friends of the Smithsonian Institution into two jealous and even hostile camps. In the lives of institutions, as in those of individuals, there are occasions when bold enterprise and unquestioning faith show themselves to be qualities as prudent as they are powerful.

For the present, however, the Library portion of the Smithsonian scheme has sustained a check. But a foundation has been laid, which, at some day or other, will assuredly be worthily built upon. About 19,000 volumes have been collected. Of this number about 9350 have been purchased; upwards of 8000 have been obtained by donation and exchange; about 4300 have been delivered under the Copyright Act; 873 volumes are stated in the Reports to have come "by deposit." Of the extent of the collection in the several classes of literature no adequate statement has appeared. In appropriating the funds available for book-buying, Mr. Jewett very judiciously recommended the collection, in the first instance, of works of bibliography, and a considerable proportion of the purchases have accordingly been in this department. Of the books presented the majority are Periodicals and Transactions of learned Societies.\* The Reading-Room, it is stated (in the "*Eighth Annual Report*"), "has continued to be a place of great resort for citizens and strangers. The list of periodicals is extensive, and comprises many of the best scientific and literary journals of this country and of Europe." †

Of the other operations of the Smithsonian Institution we can speak with unmixed satisfaction. It has already published nine volumes of "*Contributions to Knowledge*;" besides several minor but useful works, as, for instance, a good "*Report on recent Improvements in Chemical Arts*." Of the contents of the former, a complete list is subjoined in its appropriate place. They are, it will be seen, very comprehensive. In addition to the entire range of the Natural Sciences, they include contributions of real value in History and in Philology.

It has also erected a Magnetic Observatory at Washington; has in various ways promoted astronomical pursuits; and has established a valuable system of meteorological investigation throughout the whole extent of the Union. And, finally, it has organized and has successfully carried into practical working a comprehensive scheme of scientific and literary correspondence and exchanges throughout the world, the probable ultimate advantages of which are not easily calculable. That an institution, which in eleven years has accomplished so much, may surmount all temporary difficulties, and prosecute

\* The first part of a list of works of this kind has been published by way of Appendix to the Seventh Volume of the *Smithsonian Contributions*.

† *Eighth Report*, p. 30 (1854. 8vo).

‡ *I. e.* in the body of Bibliography under Sciences generally.

its career with ever increasing activity and success, must be the ardent desire of all lovers of knowledge, whether they be Americans or Europeans.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### OF PUBLIC SCHOOL AND DISTRICT LIBRARIES.

In addition to the various classes of Libraries which have been already enumerated, many of the States have School and District Libraries, more or less completely organized, but in most cases having a direct connection with the Common School legislation of the State to which they belong.

In the *Twelfth Report of the Secretary of the Board of Education of Massachusetts* (November, 1848), it is stated that the then number of volumes in the Public School Libraries of that State was 91,539; and their estimated value 42,707 dollars (£8540). "It would be difficult," it is added, "to mention any way in which a million of dollars could be more beneficially expended than in supplying the requisite apparatus and libraries for our Common Schools."

The School districts throughout the State of New York are furnished with libraries out of funds annually appropriated (since 1838) by law to that purpose. The number of volumes in these libraries was, in 1844, 1,145,250; in 1845, 1,203,139; in 1846, 1,310,986; and in 1847, 1,338,848 volumes. "Selections for the District Libraries are made from the whole range of literature and science, with the exception of controversial books, political or religious. History, Biography, Poetry, Philosophy, Fiction, indeed every department of human knowledge contributes its share to 'the District School Library' . . . . . These libraries are not so much for the benefit of children attending school as for those who have completed their Common School education. Its main design was to throw into school districts, and to place within the reach of all the inhabitants, a collection of good works on subjects calculated to enlarge their understandings, and store their minds with useful knowledge."\* The *Report of the Board of Education of New York City*, presented in 1855, recommends the extension of this plan to the Grammar Schools of the City.†

There are also, in the State of New York, 172 libraries attached to Academies and Seminaries, under the general supervision of the Regents of the University, who annually report to the Legislature *inter alia* the number of volumes, and the estimated value of the books in each Academy. These 172 libraries contained, in 1855, 91,296 volumes, and their estimated value was 88,432 dollars (or £18,259 sterling).‡ The following is a comparative view of these Academy Libraries in the years 1848, 1850, and 1855, respectively:—

\* Reports of 1836 and of 1849, quoted by Jewett in *Notices, &c.*, p. 105.

† *Thirteenth Annual Report of Board of Education of the City and County of New York*, 1855, p. 68.

‡ *Sixty-eighth Annual Report of the Regents of the University of the State of New York*, March, 1855, pp. 173--225.



Year.	No. of Libraries.	Aggregate No. of Volumes.
1848	153	63,365
1850	154	65,524
1855	172	91,296

In Rhode Island, within the four years 1846—1849, public libraries were established in every town of the State with only four exceptions, and mainly by the exertions of the enlightened and energetic Commissioner of Public Schools, Mr. Henry Barnard. These libraries are small, but are composed of well-selected books, and are accessible to the whole population. Another public-spirited man, Mr. Amasa Manton, of Rhode Island, has been the chief founder of ten libraries in as many villages of that State, which now contain in the aggregate upwards of 5000 good books.\*

District Libraries of Rhode Island.

Even in the newer States—such as Indiana and Michigan—progress is being made in a similar direction, and by express legislative enactment. Indiana provided, in the law which laid out the State into counties, for the appropriation of a piece of land in each county to the establishment of a public library. In Michigan “the law has for several years made it the duty of the supervisor to assess a half mill tax upon each dollar of the taxable property of his township for the purchase of a Township Library . . . . The constitution of the State provides that ‘the clear proceeds of all fines assessed in the several counties for any breach of the penal laws shall be exclusively applied to the support of said libraries.’ ‘Although,’ it is added, ‘according to the returns there are [1847] but 300 Township Libraries in the 425 townships of the State, from which reports have been received, still there is a very gratifying increase in the number of these libraries, and the extent of their circulation. There are 30 more such libraries reported this year than last, containing in all 42,926 volumes, which is 6938 more than they contained, according to the reports received, in the year 1846. These libraries circulate through 1349 districts, which shows an increase of 268 over any former year. Communications received from several counties afford very gratifying evidence of their increased usefulness.’”†

## CHAPTER VII.

### GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN the Smithsonian “*Report on Public Libraries*” of 1849, Mr. Jewett stated their total number, in all the States collectively, at 10,199, and their aggregate contents at 3,753,964. According to the Census Returns, commenced in 1850, but not completed until 1853, the total number of libraries,

\* Jewett, *Notices*, &c., p. 63.

† *Ibid.* p. 185.

more or less accessible to the public, was 15,615, and the aggregate number of volumes therein contained, 4,636,411.

Mr. Jewett's classification was seven-fold, namely: I. *State Libraries*; II. *Social Libraries*; III. *College Libraries*; IV. *Students' Libraries*; V. *Libraries of Academics and Professional Schools*; VI. *Libraries of Scientific and Historical Societies*; VII. *Public School Libraries*. The Census classification was five-fold, namely: I. *Public Libraries* (in the usual sense of that term as applied in the United States); II. *School Libraries*; III. *Sunday School Libraries*; IV. *College Libraries*; V. *Church Libraries*. The classification employed in these pages differs from both. In presenting the reader with a brief and general Summary of the results, it will therefore be expedient first to state them separately, and then to place side by side such of the several items as admit of comparison. Mr. Jewett's Summary will stand thus:—

	No. of Libraries.	Aggregate No. of vols.	
Summary of Libraries in 1849, according to Mr. Jewett.	1. "State" Libraries .. ..	39	288,937
	2. "Social" Libraries .. ..	126	611,334
	3. "College" Libraries .. ..	126	586,912
	4. "Students'" Libraries .. ..	142	254,639
	5. "Libraries of Academics," &c. ..	227	320,909
	6. "Libraries of Scientific and Historical Societies" .. ..	34	138,901
	7. "Public School" Libraries .. ..	9505	1,552,332
Total .. ..	10,199	3,753,964	

If the same results be classified according to the several States, ranking these in the order of the relative *number of volumes* publicly accessible in each *State*, they will read thus:

	Name of State.	Population of State in 1850.	No. of Libraries in 1849.	Aggregate No. of vols. in 1849.
1.	New York .. ..	3,097,394	8284	1,756,254
2.	Massachusetts .. ..	994,514	762	415,658
3.	Pennsylvania .. ..	2,311,786	80	287,519
4.	District of Columbia .. ..	51,687	20	148,673
5.	Ohio .. ..	1,980,427	48	104,634
6.	Connecticut .. ..	370,792	19	98,638
7.	Virginia .. ..	1,426,661	30	89,180
8.	Maryland .. ..	583,034	46	84,565
9.	Rhode Island .. ..	147,545	45	79,341
10.	Michigan .. ..	397,654	381	65,235
11.	Kentucky .. ..	982,405	27	63,440
12.	South Carolina .. ..	668,507	14	59,914
13.	New Hampshire .. ..	317,976	50	57,178
14.	Maine .. ..	583,169	31	56,856
15.	Tennessee .. ..	1,002,614	21	47,356
16.	New Jersey .. ..	489,555	17	46,305
17.	Indiana .. ..	988,416	16	40,000
18.	Missouri .. ..	682,044	19	37,506
19.	Georgia .. ..	906,185	24	35,632

	Name of State.	Population of State in 1850.	No. of Libraries in 1849.	Aggregate No. of vols. in 1849.
20.	Vermont .. ..	314,120	23	34,299
21.	Louisiana .. ..	517,762	6	30,000
22.	North Carolina .. ..	869,039	8	24,247
23.	Illinois .. ..	851,470	27	19,916
24.	Alabama .. ..	771,671	37	18,077
25.	Delaware .. ..	91,532	5	16,700
26.	Mississippi .. ..	606,526	108	15,650
27.	Wisconsin .. ..	305,391	35	7163
28.	Florida .. ..	87,444	4	5537
29.	Minnesota .. ..	6,077	2	3200
30.	Iowa .. ..	192,214	5	2660
31.	Texas .. ..	212,592	4	1631
32.	Arkansas .. ..	209,897	1	1000
33.	California .. ..	92,597		
	Total .. ..	23,197,995	10,199	3,753,964

According to the Census Returns of 1850 the then number of Libraries, other than "private" (of which, also, the Census took an account), ran thus:—

Summary of Libraries in 1850, according to the Census Returns.

	No. of Libraries.	Aggregate No. of Volumes.
1. "Public" Libraries .. ..	1217	1,446,015
2. "School" Libraries .. ..	12,067	1,647,404
3. "Sunday School" Libraries .. ..	1988	542,321
4. "College" Libraries .. ..	213	942,321
5. "Church" Libraries .. ..	130	58,350
Total .. ..	15,615	4,636,411

In the following "*Statistical Table of the Public Libraries of the United States,*" with which we conclude this branch of our subject, the returns of 1849, as stated by Mr. Jewett, are, for the purpose of comparison, given side by side with those of 1856, so far as we have been able to ascertain them from the latest Reports, or from other and personal information. Where these are lacking, the estimated contents, in 1856, of the Library in question is based on the average accessions of preceding years, as officially reported. A summary of the general results of this table will be found on its last page:—

Summary of Libraries in 1856, as enumerated in the following "Statistical Table."

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE LIBRARIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I. STATE OF MAINE.

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	ESTIMATED No. of Vols. in 1886.
1 AUGUSTA ..	State .. .. .	1836	9000	500	12500
2 BANGOR ..	Theological Seminary ..	1832	7500	400	10300
3 BRUNSWICK ..	Bowdoin College .. ..	1802	24750	530	28460
4 HOULTON ..	Forest Club .. .. .	1849	200		
5 PORTLAND ..	Athenæum .. .. .	1827	6170		
6 WATERVILLE ..	Waterville College ..	1820	8484	50	8834

II. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

1 CONCORD ..	(1.) New Hampshire Historical Society ..	1823	1500		
	(2.) Methodist Biblical Institute .. .. .	1846	1000	250	2750
	(3.) State .. .. .	1850	4700	120	5540
2 DUBLIN ..	(1.) Union .. .. .	1793	438		
	(2.) Ladies' .. .. .	1799	161		
	(3.) Juvenile .. .. .	1822	1500?		
3 EXETER ..	Phillips' Academy ..	1783	2200		
4 GILMANTON ..	Theological Seminary ..	1835	4300		
5 GREAT FALLS	Manufacturers' and Village		2200		
6 HANOVER ..	(1.) Dartmouth College ..	1769	20600		
	(2.) Northern Academy of Arts and Sciences ..	1841	1500		
7 MERIDAN VIL- LAGE ..	Kimball Union Academy	1814	2000	140	2980
8 NEW HAMPTON	Theological Seminary ..	1821	2200		
9 NORTHFIELD ..	New Hampshire Conference Seminary .. .. .		1000		

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	Estimated No. of Vols. in 1856.
10 PORTSMOUTH..	(1.) Athenæum .. ..	1817	7284	200	8684
	(2.) St. John's Church ..		500		
	(3.) Unitarian Church ..		678		
11 SANBORNTON..	Public .. ..		300		
12 WAKEFIELD ..	Wakefield and Brookfield Union .. ..	1797	500		

## III. STATE OF VERMONT.

1 BURLINGTON..	University of Vermont ..	1800	12250	200	13650
2 MIDDLEBURY..	Middlebury College ..	1800	8417		
3 MONTPELIER..	(1.) State .. ..		3500		
	(2.) Historical and Antiquarian Society .. ..	1838			
4 NORWICH ..	Norwich University ..	1843	1032	200	2432

## IV. STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

1 AMHERST ..	Amherst College .. ..	1821	13700	120	14540
2 ANDOVER ..	(1.) Theological Seminary	1808	20249	500	23749
	(2.) Phillips' Academy ..		1000		
	(3.) English High School		800		
3 BOSTON ..	(1.) Prince, or South Church	1758	1800		
	(2.) Library of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences .. ..	1780	8000	150	9050
	(3.) Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society .. ..	1791	7000	100	7700
	(4.) Boston .. ..	1794	12150	250	13900
	(5.) Boston Athenæum ..	1806	50000		
	(6.) Apprentices' .. ..	1820	4000	175	5225
	(7.) Library of the American Board of Foreign Missions .. ..	1822	3500	150	4550
	(8.) Social Law .. ..	1822 <sup>about</sup>	3000		
	(9.) General Court, or State	1826	7400	425	10400
	(10.) Library of the Boston Society of Natural History .. ..	1830	3500	100	4200
	(11.) American Statistical Association .. ..	1839	2000		
	(12.) New England Genealogical Association ..	1845	1500		

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual income.	ESTIMATED No. of Vols. in 1856.
BOSTON [ <i>continued</i> ]	(13.) Mercantile . . . . . [incorporated . . . . .]	1845	7059	400	9859
	(14.) Bowditch . . . . .	1846			
	(15.) Library of the American Oriental Society . . . . .	1849?	400		
	(16.) Free City . . . . .	1852			
4 CAMBRIDGE . .	Harvard College . . . . .	1764	86200	400?	89000
5 CAMBRIDGE- PORT . .	Parish . . . . .	1849	500		
6 GROTON . .	Lawrence Academy . . . . .	1827	2650		
7 LAWRENCE . .	Franklin . . . . .	1847	850		
8 LOWELL . .	Library of the Middlesex Mechanics' Association . . . . .	1825	5386		
	City School . . . . .	1844	7492		
9 NANTUCKET . .	Athenæum . . . . . founded restored	1836 1847	2552		
10 NEW BEDFORD	Free City . . . . .	1852			
11 NEWTON . .	Theological Seminary . . . . .	1825	6000		
12 ROXBURY . .	Athenæum . . . . .	1848	5330	175?	6550
13 SALEM . .	(1.) Library of Essex Medi- cal Society . . . . .	1805	1000		
	(2.) Athenæum . . . . . [Social Library founded 1760.]	1810	11000	250	12750
	(3.) Library of the Essex Agricultural Society . . . . .	1818	650		
	(4.) Salem Evangelical . . . . .		1400		
	(5.) Library of the Essex Institute . . . . .	1848	2522	250	4272
	(6.) Mechanics' Institute . . . . .		3000		
	(7.) E. India Marine Society . . . . .		300		
14 WILLIAMSTOWN	William's College . . . . .	1793	10599	188	11915
15 WORCESTER . .	(1.) Library of the American Antiquarian Society . . . . .	1812	18000	490	21430
	(2.) High School . . . . .	1832	500		
	(3.) Library of the College of the Holy Cross . . . . .	1843	4220		
	(4.) Library of Mechanics' Institute and Lyceum . . . . .	1843	2300		

## V. STATE OF RHODE ISLAND.

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	ESTIMATED No. of Vols. in 1886.
1 NEWPORT ..	(1.) Redwood .. ..	1730	4000		
	(2.) Mechanics' .. ..	1828	1100	45	1415
2 PROVIDENCE ..	(1.) Brown University ..	1768	31600	1600	42900
	(2.) Mechanics' Association	1820?	3300		
	(3.) Library of the Rhode Island Historical Society .. ..	1822	2500		
	(4.) Library of the Franklin Society .. ..	1823	500		
	(5.) Athenæum .. ..	1831	15204	800	20804
	[Providence Library founded in 1753.]				
(6.) Friends' Boarding-School .. ..		1500			

## VI. STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

1 EAST WINDSOR	Library of the Theological Institute .. ..	1833	3500		
2 HARTFORD ..	(1.) Trinity College .. ..	1823	9000		
	(2.) Library of the Historical Society of Connecticut .. ..	1825	7000		
	(3.) Library of the Young Men's Institute .. ..	1838	10000	500	13500
	(4.) State .. ..	1850	3000		
3 MIDDLETOWN	Wesleyan University .. ..	1831	11123	100	11800
4 NEW HAVEN ..	(1.) Yale College .. ..	1700	50481		60000
	(2.) Library of Young Men's Institute .. ..		3800		8000
5 NORWICH ..	Otis .. ..		5000		

## VII. STATE OF NEW YORK.

1 ALBANY ..	(1.) State .. ..	1818	23274		
	(2.) Assembly .. ..		7000		
	(3.) Albany Institute .. ..	1828	3323		
	(4.) New York State Agricultural Society .. ..	1832	600		
	(5.) Library of the Young Men's Association .. ..	1833	4500	320	6740
	(6.) Library of the State Normal School .. ..		6858		
	(7.) Albany Medical College		2212		

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	Estimated No of Vols. in 1856.
2 AUBURN ..	Theological Seminary ..	1821	6000		
3 BROOKLYN ..	(1.) Youths' Free Library of the Brooklyn Institute	1828	3028		
	(2.) Library of the United States Naval Lyceum	1833	2971		
	(3.) City [Subscription] ..	1839	3000		
4 BUFFALO ..	(1.) Library of the Young Men's Association ..	1837	6500		
	(2.) Library of the Medical Department of the Buffalo University ..			519	
5 CLINTON ..	Hamilton College .. ..	1812	10300		
6 EAST HAMPTON	Library Company .. ..	1803	563		
7 FLUSHING ..	St. Paul's College ..		2800		
8 FORDHAM ..	(1.) St. John's College ..	1840	5500		
	(2.) St. Joseph's Seminary	1840	4000		
9 GENEVA ..	College Libraries .. ..	1825	6429		
10 HAMILTON ..	Madison University ..	1820	7000		
11 HARTWICK ..	Theological Seminary ..	1815	1000		
12 HUDSON ..	Franklin .. ..	1838	1058		
13 NEWBURG ..	Theological Seminary ..	1802	3230		
14 NEW YORK CITY ..	(1.) New York Society ..	1754	35000		
	(2.) Library of the Columbia College .. ..	1757	12740		
	(3.) Library of the New York Hospital ..	1770	6000		
	(4.) Library of the New York Historical Society .. ..	1804	17000		
	(5.) Library of the Episcopal Theological Institute	1817	10000		
	(6.) Mercantile Association	1820	31674		
	(7.) Apprentices' .. ..	1820	14000		
	(8.) Library of the Lyceum of Natural History ..	1818			
	(9.) Printers' Reading-Room	1823	2500		
	(10.) Library of the American Institute ..	1828	6000		
	(11.) Library of the New York Law Institute	1830	4424		



Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	ESTIMATED No. of Vols. in 1896.
NEW YORK CITY. [continued]	(12.) Library of the Mechanics' Institute . .	1830	3000		
	(13.) Library of the University of New York . .	1831	4000		
	(14.) Library of the Union Theological Seminary . . . . .	1838	17000		
	(15.) Astor . . . . .	1839	20000		
	(16.) Library of the American and Foreign Bible Society . .		1576		
	(17.) Library of the College of Physicians and Surgeons . . . . .		1200		
	(18.) Library of the American Ethnological Society . . . . .				500?
	(19.) Library of the Free Academy . . . . .	1851			
	15 POUGHKEEPSIE	(1.) Library of the Lyceum of Literature, Science, &c. . . . . (2.) Public . . . . .	1838	650 3000	80
16 ROCHESTER . .	(1.) Athenæum . . . . . (2.) Library of the Court of Appeals . . . . .	1832	5050 3400		
17 SCHENECTADY	(1.) Union College . . . . . (2.) Library of the Young Men's Association . .	1795	14256 3200		
18 SOMERS . . . .	Public . . . . .		210		
19 TROY . . . . .	Library of the Young Men's Association . . . . .	1835	4000	180	5260?
20 UTICA . . . . .	Library of the Young Men's Association . . . . .		2200		
21 WEST POINT . .	Library of the United States Military Academy . .	1812	15000	192	16330?

## VIII. STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

1 BURLINGTON . .	College . . . . .	1846	1000		
2 NEWARK . . . .	(1.) Library of the New Jersey Historical Society . . . . .	1845	825		
	(2.) Institution . . . . .		3000		

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	ESTIMATED No. of Vols. in 1896.
3 NEW BRUNSWICK ..	Rutger's College Library ..	1807	8000		
4 ORANGE ..	Lyceum .. .. .		1000		
5 PRINCETON ..	(1.) Libraries of the College of New Jersey ..	1755	16000		
	(2.) Library of the Theological Seminary ..	1812	9000		
6 TRENTON ..	(1.) State .. .. .	1824	5000		
	(2.) Philomathean .. ..		300		

IX. STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

1 ALLEGHANY ..	Theological Seminary ..	1827	5000		
2 CANONSBURG ..	(1.) Jefferson College ..	1802	10000		
	(2.) Theological Seminary	1831	2000		
3 CARLISLE ..	Dickenson College .. ..	1782	14550	150	15500
4 CHESTER ..	Athenæum .. .. .		1000		
5 EASTON ..	(1.) Easton .. .. .	1811	3751		
	(2.) Lafayette College ..	1833	5402		
6 ERIE .. ..	Irving Literary Institute ..	1839	1015		
7 FALLSINGTON	Fallsington Library Company .. .. .	1802	1650		
8 GETTYSBURG ..	(1.) Theological Seminary	1825	8500	80	9000
	(2.) Pennsylvania College	1832	6373		
9 HARRISBURG ..	State .. .. .	1816	10000		
10 HATBOROUGH	Union .. .. .	1755	3430	100	4100
11 JONESTOWN ..	Library of the Swatara Literary Association ..	1850			
12 LANCASTER ..	(1.) Mechanics' Institute ..		2000		
	(2.) Franklin College ..		750		
13 LEWISBURG ..	University .. .. .	1849	600		
14 MEADVILLE ..	(1.) Alleghany College ..	1815	8000		
	(2.) Library of the Meadville Theological School .. ..	1844	5300		

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	ESTIMATED No. of Vols. in 1856.
15 MERCERSBURG	(1.) Library of the German Reformed Theological Seminary . . . .	1820	6000	50	6300
	(2.) Marshall College* . .		7000		
16 MORRISTOWN	Library Company . . . .	1796	2515		
17 PHILADELPHIA	(1.) Library Company and Loganian . . . .	1731	60000		
	(2.) Library of the American Philosophical Society	1742	20000		
	(3.) Library of the Pennsylvania Hospital . . . .	1750	10000		
	(4.) Libraries of the University of Pennsylvania	1750	9250		
	(5.) Library of the Law Association . . . .	1802	5100		
	(6.) Library of the Academy of Natural Sciences	1812	12000		
	(7.) Athenæum . . . .	1813	10000		
	(8.) Apprentices' . . . .	1821	11700	600	15900
	(9.) Mercantile . . . .	1823	12232	600	16400
	(10.) Libraries of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania . . . .	1825	1728		
	(11.) Library of the Franklin Institute . . . .	1830	4300		
	(12.) Libraries of the American Baptist Publication Society . .		1032		
	(13.) Libraries of the German Society . . . .		18000		
18 PITTSBURG . .	(1.) Theological Seminary	1828	1500		
	(2.) Washington College		3300		
	(3.) Young Men's Mercantile . . . . .	1847	1188		
19 WESTCHESTER	(1.) Library of the Cabinet of Natural Sciences	1826	450		500
	(2.) Library of the Chester County Athenæum	1827	1431	130	2300

X. STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 DOVER . .	State and Law . . . .	1837	4000		
2 NEWARK . .	Delaware College . . . .	1833	8700		
3 NEWCASTLE . .	Public . . . . .	1812	4000		

\* It is proposed to unite this College and its Library with Franklin College, Lancaster.

XI. STATE OF MARYLAND.

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	ESTIMATED No. of Vols. in 1856.
1 ANNAPOLIS ..	(1.) State .. .. .	1827	15059	580	19100
	(2.) St. John's College ..	1784	3292		
2 BALTIMORE ..	(1.) Collection of the Library Company ..	1796	15005	500 700	16500 15000 13500
	(2.) St. Mary's College ..	1809	12000		
	(3.) Mercantile .. .. .	1839	9000		
	(4.) Library of the Historical Society .. .. .	1843	1770		
	(5.) Odd Fellows' Lodge ..	1849	3541		
	(6.) Female College .. ..	1850	2800		
	(7.) Mechanics' Institute ..	1849	1000		
3 CHESTERTOWN	Washington College ..	1783	1100		
4 EMMETSBURG	Mount St. Mary's College		4000		
5 HAGERSTOWN	St. James's College ..		3500		

XII. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

1 GEORGETOWN	College .. .. .	1792	26100	300?	28000
2 WASHINGTON	(1.) Congress .. .. . [Since destroyed by fire, but restored.]	1800	50000		60000
	(2.) House of Representatives' .. .. .		12000	400	14000
	(3.) Library of the State Department .. .. . [Includes the Collection of Books deposited by Copyright Law ]	1781	17000	450	20000
	(4.) Library of the War Department .. .. .	1832	7000	600?	11000
	(5.) Libraries of Treasury and Engineer Departments .. .. .		3700	200?	5000
	(6.) Columbian College .. ..	1821	6200		
	(7.) Patent Office .. .. .		6000		
	(8.) Smithsonian .. .. .	1846	6000		19000
	(9.) Collection of the Library Company .. .. .	1814	5000	50	5350
	(10.) National Institute .. ..	1840	3000		
	(11.) Apprentices' .. .. .		2000		
	(12.) Observatory .. .. .	1842	500		

## XIII. STATE OF VIRGINIA.

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	ESTIMATED No. of Vols. in 1856.
1 BERRYVILLE ..	Academy .. .. .	1830?	1000		
2 BETHANY ..	College .. .. .	1840	2280		
3 BOYDTOWN ..	Randolph Macon College ..	1832	6000		
4 CHARLOTTESVILLE ..	Virginia University ..	1825	18378	413	21300
5 EMORY ..	Libraries of the Emory and Henry College .. ..	1839	8000	250	9750
6 FAIRFAX ..	Theological Seminary ..		4955	50?	5300
7 LEXINGTON ..	(1.) Washington College ..	1776	4997	40	5200
	(2.) Military Institute ..	1841	2500	250	4250
8 PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY	(1.) Theological Seminary ..	1828	4306	50?	4650
	(2.) Hampden-Sidncy ..	1835	8000		
9 PRUNTYTOWN	College .. .. .	1840	2000		
10 RICHMOND ..	(1.) State .. .. .	1828	14000	500?	17500
	(2.) Historical Society ..	1835	1200		
	(3.) Richmond College ..	1843	1200		
11 ROMNEY ..	Literary Society .. ..	1819	1000		
12 WILLIAMSBURG	College .. .. .	1692?	5000		

## XIV. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

1 CHAPEL HILL	University .. .. .	1795	11847		
2 MECKLENBURG COUNTY ..	Davidson College .. ..		1200		
3 RALEIGH ..	State .. .. .		3000		
4 SALEM ..	Fayette Academy .. ..	1804	1500		
5 WAKE FOREST	College .. .. .		4700		

## XV. STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

1 CHARLESTON ..	(1.) Library Society .. ..	1748	20000	180	21260
	[Destroyed by fire in 1778.]				
	(2.) Apprentices' .. ..	1824	8500	500	12000
	(3.) College .. .. .	1810	2000		

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	ESTIMATED No. of Vols. in 1856.
CHARLESTON . . [continued]	(4.) Medical Society . .	1834	2450	100?	3100
2 COLUMBIA . .	(1.) S. C. College . . . .	1802	18400	500	22000
	(2.) Theological Seminary . .	1830	4754		
3 FAIRFIELD . .	Theological Seminary . .	1826	1500		
4 LEXINGTON . .	Theological Seminary . .	1833	1560		

XVI. STATE OF GEORGIA.

1 ATHENS . .	Franklin College . . . .	1831	10267	130	11200
2 AUGUSTA . .	Medical College . . . .	1833	4000	150	5000
3 MILLEDGEVILLE . .	Oglethorpe College . . . .	1838	4000		
4 OXFORD . .	Emory College . . . .	1839	2700		
5 PENNFIELD . .	Mercer College . . . .	1838	3000		
6 SAVANNAH . .	Historical Society . . . .		7000		

XVII. STATE OF ALABAMA.

1 LAGRANGE . .	College . . . .		3000		
2 MARION . .	Howard College . . . .	1842	1500		
3 MOBILE . .	Franklin Society . . . .	1835	1454		
4 SPRING HILL . .	College . . . .		4000		
5 TUSCALOOSA . .	Alabama University . . . .	1831	7123	150	8200

XVIII. STATE OF FLORIDA.

1 PENSACOLA . .	Naval Hospital . . . .	1847	1337		
2 ST. AUGUSTINE . .	Judicial . . . .		2000		
3 TALLAHASSEE . .	State . . . .	1845	2000		

## XIX. STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	Exhibit No. of Vols. in 1856.
1 JACKSON ..	State .. .. .	1838	5000	300 <sup>p</sup>	7000
2 CLAIBORNE COUNTY ..	Oakland College .. ..	1831	6000		
3 OXFORD ..	College .. .. .	1848	1600		
4 WASHINGTON	College .. .. .		1000		

## XX. STATE OF LOUISIANA.

1 BATON ROUGE	State .. .. .	1838	7000	300	9000
2 BRINGIERS ..	Jefferson College .. ..		6000		
3 JACKSON ..	Lousiana College .. ..		2000		
4 NEW ORLEANS	Public School .. .. .		10000		

## XXI. STATES OF TEXAS AND ARKANSAS.

1 AUSTIN (Texas) ..	State .. .. .	1837	1000	80	1500
2 LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas)	Lyceum .. .. .		1000		

## XXII. STATE OF TENNESSEE.

1 COLUMBIA ..	(1.) Jackson College ..	1834	2500	300 <sup>p</sup>	2700
	(2.) Female Institute ..	1839	3500		
2 GREENVILLE ..	College .. .. .		3000		
3 KNOXVILLE ..	East Tennessee College ..	1819	4500		
4 LEBANON ..	Cumberland University ..	1844	4000		
5 MARYVILLE ..	College .. .. .	1821	3700	25	3875
6 NASHVILLE ..	(1.) State .. .. .		8000	100	1900
	(2.) Nashville University ..	1824	9546		
	(3.) Franklin College ..	1844	1200		
7 WASHINGTON COUNTY ..	College .. .. .		1000		

XXIII. STATE OF KENTUCKY.

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	ESTIMATED No. of Vols. in 1896.
1 AUGUSTA ..	College .. .. .		2500		
2 BARDSTOWN ..	St. Joseph's College ..	1824	3000		
3 COVINGTON ..	Theological Institute ..	1845	2000		
4 DANVILLE ..	College .. .. .	1824	5050		
5 FRANKFORT ..	State .. .. .	1834	8500		
6 GEORGETOWN	College .. .. .	1837	7280	500	10700
7 LEXINGTON ..	Transylvania College ..	1798	14000		
8 LOUISVILLE ..	(1.) Louisville, &c. ..	1847	5500		
	(2.) University Medical ..		1000		
9 MARION COUNTY ..	College .. .. .		5000		
10 PRINCETON ..	Cumberland College ..	1826	1210		
11 SHELBYVILLE	College .. .. .		4000		

XXIV. STATE OF OHIO.

1 ATHENS ..	Ohio University .. ..	1804	2750		
2 CINCINNATI ..	(1.) Mercantile .. ..	1835	10000	1070	17000
	(2.) Lane Seminary ..	1837	10000		
	(3.) St. Xavier College ..	1841	5600	400	8000
	(4.) Mechanics' Institute ..	1829	3265	200	4600
	(5.) Historical Society ..	1831	1000		
	(6.) Ohio Medical College ..	1826	2129		
	(7.) Woodward College ..		1400		
3 CLEVELAND ..	Medical College .. ..		1000		
4 COLUMBUS ..	State .. .. .	1817	12500	500	16000
5 DELAWARE ..	Wesleyan Institute ..	1845	2780	200	3100
6 GAMBIER ..	Kenyon College .. ..	1824	7550		
7 GRANVILLE ..	College .. .. .	1836	3000		
8 HUDSON ..	Western College .. ..	1826	7634	130	8600



Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	Estimated No. of Vols. in 1856.
9 MARIETTA ..	(1.) College .. .. (2.) Mercantile .. ..	1835	6400 1000		
10 NEW ATHENS	Franklin College .. ..		2000		
11 OBERLIN ..	Institute .. ..	1834	4000		
12 OXFORD ..	Miami University .. ..	1824	6786	200	8000
13 SPRINGFIELD	Wittenburg College .. ..	1846	5265	1100?	12000
14 ZANESVILLE ..	Athenæum .. ..	1828	3580	100	4200

## XXV. STATE OF INDIANA.

1 BLOOMINGTON	(1.) University .. .. (2.) County .. ..	1816	5000 4000		
2 CRAWFORDVILLE	Wabash College .. ..	1839	4300		
3 GREENCASTLE	Asbury College .. ..		2700		
4 HANOVER ..	College .. ..	1840	4700		
5 INDIANAPOLIS	State .. ..	1825	7000	250	8700
6 LOGANSPOUT ..	Sigourney .. ..		3000		
7 NORTH BEND	St. Mary's .. ..	1842	2000		
8 VINCENNES ..	Public .. ..	1806	1700		

## XXVI. STATE OF ILLINOIS.

1 CHICAGO ..	Mechanics' .. ..	1842	1000		
2 GATESBURG ..	Labour College .. ..	1844	1400		
3 JACKSONVILLE	Illinois College .. ..	1830	4000		
4 LEBANON ..	College .. ..	1820	1825		
5 SPRINGFIELD	State .. ..		4000		
6 ST. CLAIR COUNTY ..	German .. ..		1820		
7 UPPER ALTON	Shurtleff College .. ..		1520		

XXVII. STATE OF MISSOURI.

Name of City or Town.	Name of Library.	When founded.	No. of Vols. in 1849.	Average annual increase.	Estimated No. of Vols. in 1856.
1 CAPE GIRARDEAU ..	St. Mary's College .. ..		2 400		
2 COLUMBIA ..	Missouri College .. ..	1842	1200		
3 JEFFERSON ..	State .. ..	1829	4637		
4 PALMYRA ..	Masonic .. ..		2500		
5 ST. LOUIS ..	(1.) University .. ..	1829	13580		
	(2.) Mercantile .. ..	1846	4299	1200?	12700
	(3.) Law .. ..	1840	1500		

XXVIII. STATE OF MICHIGAN.

1 ANN ARBOUR	Michigan University .. ..	1837	5000	100?	6000?
2 DETROIT ..	(1.) St. Philip's College .. ..		3000		
	(2.) Society .. ..	1833	1815		
3 LANSING ..	State .. ..	1836	4400	400?	7000
4 MONROE ..	Public .. ..		1500		
5 SPRINGARBOUR	College .. ..		1600		
[Township and District Libraries, collectively [374]			47200]		

XXIX. STATE OF IOWA.

IOWA CITY ..	State .. ..	1839	1600	10	1670
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XXX. STATE OF WISCONSIN.

1 BELOIT ..	College .. ..		1000		
2 MADISON ..	State .. ..	1836	4000		
3 MILWAUKIE ..	Association .. ..		1000		

XXXI. TERRITORY OF MINNESOTA.

ST. PAUL ..	Territorial .. ..	1849	3000		
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GENERAL SUMMARY OF THOSE LIBRARIES ONLY WHICH  
ARE COMPRISED IN THE PRECEDING TABLE.

Class.	Character of the Libraries.	No. of Libraries in each class.	Estimated No. of Vols. in the Aggregate.	Average No. of Vols. in each Library of the several classes respectively.
I.	COLLEGIATE . . . .	149	1,083,954	7274
II.	PROPRIETARY . . . .	133	819,594	6162
III.	STATE and CONGRESSIONAL	36	333,321	9258
IV.	TOWN and PAROCHIAL . .	11	94,188	8562
V.	SCHOOL . . . .	12	40,830	3402
	Total . . . .	341	2,371,887	

Having no information of later date than that contained in the Census of 1850 (p. exxxiii. *supra*) respecting the "Public School," "District," and "Township" Libraries, I have not included them in this Statistical Table. Many of them are itinerating collections. It is obvious, therefore, that in this case, especially, wear and tear will considerably affect the numbers from time to time, as well as the ordinary contingencies of increase or loss. The careful revision and reprinting of Mr. Jewett's Report of 1849 has been for several years promised by the Smithsonian functionaries, and is much to be desired.

EDWARD EDWARDS.



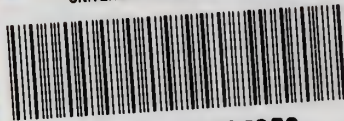








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